

# REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



## MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**NATIONAL POLICY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**AND**

**FOUR YEARS STRATEGIC PLAN (2021-2024)**

May, 2021

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## ACRONYMS

CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DP	Development Partner
DPO	Disabled People's Organizations
EAC	East African Community
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
EFA	Education for All
EICV	Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey
ESSP	Education Sector Strategic Plan
FBOs	Faith-Based Organisations
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GMO	Gender Monitoring Office
GoR	Government of Rwanda
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
LODA	Local Administrative Entities Development Agency
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MIFOTRA	Ministry of Public Service and Labour
MIGEPROF	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
MINALOC	Ministry of Local Government
MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MINEDUC	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
NCC	National Commission for Children
NCPD	National Council of Persons with Disabilities
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NISR	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
NST	National Strategy for Transformation
NUDOR	National Union of Disability Organizations in Rwanda
NWC	National Women's Council
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan
PTA	Parents Teachers' Association
PwDs	Persons with Disabilities
RDB	Rwanda Development Board
REB	Rwanda Education Board
RSL	Rwanda Sign Language
RWF	Rwandan Francs
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SNE	Special Needs Education
SO:	Specific Objective
SP	Social Protection
SSP	Sector Strategic Plan
TTC	Teacher Training College
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UR	University of Rwanda
WDA	Work Force Development Authority
WHO	World Health Organization
7YGP	Seven Year Government Programme
9YBE	Nine Year Basic Education
12YBE	Twelve Year Basic Education

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Affirmative action:** Preferential treatment accorded to persons with functional difficulties (disabilities), special needs, or other disadvantages that deter achievement equal to peers of the same age and/or social setting.

**Accommodation or “Reasonable accommodation”<sup>1</sup>:** Necessary and appropriate modifications (not imposed or disproportionate) to assure persons with functional difficulties or other forms of special needs the enjoyment of equal participation with others. In education, this entails making necessary and appropriate modifications in instructional methods/approaches, materials, assessments, work requirements, and procedures to enable students with disabilities to equally and effectively participate in the learning process.

**Accessibility:** Refers to the design of products, devices, services, or environments for PwD. The concept of accessible design ensures both "direct access" (i.e., unassisted) and "indirect access" compatible with a person's assistive technology (e.g., computer screen readers). Accessibility is strongly related to universal design, the process of creating products that are usable by people with the widest possible range of abilities operating within the widest possible range of situations. In other words, accessibility makes things accessible to all people (disability or not)<sup>2</sup>.

**Accessible format:** Refers to a communication mode for persons with either visual or hearing impairment (e.g., sign language and Braille).

**Assistive devices:** these are equipment and materials used to facilitate or aid the functionality of a person with a disability. Some examples include hearing devices, lenses, Perkins Braille, audio and video systems, white cane, wheel chairs, tricycles and special seats, and adapted software.

**Barrier-free society:** a society devoid of physical, social, cultural, and attitudinal barriers that exclude people from participating fully in society.

**Disability Inclusion:** inclusion of PwD involving practices and policies designed to identify and remove barriers that hamper individuals’ ability to have full participation in society. Inclusion involves:

- Fair treatment (non-discrimination)
- Making products, communications, and the physical environment more usable by as many people as possible (universal design)
- Modifying items, procedures, or systems to enable a person to use to the maximum extent possible (reasonable accommodation)
- Eliminating the belief that PwDs are unhealthy or less capable of doing things (stigma, stereotypes)

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<sup>1</sup> McGuire, J.M. (2011) Inclusive College Teaching: Universal Design for Instruction and Diverse Learners –*Journal of Access and Design for All* 1(1): 38-54. ISSN: 2013-708

<sup>2</sup><https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/accessibility/>

**Disability / Person with a disability**<sup>3</sup>: Persons with Disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Disability is a result of the interaction between a person and his or her environment. Disability is not something that resides in the individual resulting in impairment, it resides in the society (UNCRPD).

In Rwandan law (N° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007) disability is defined from a medical model and is considered the condition of a person's impairment of health ability he or she should have been in possession, and consequently leading to deficiency compared to others.

**Disability inclusive development**: Efforts to ensure the full participation of PwD as empowered self-advocates in development processes and emergency responses and to address the barriers which hinder access and participation<sup>4</sup>.

**Discrimination on the basis of functional difficulties (disabilities)**<sup>5</sup>: Any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of functional difficulties (disability) or any other special needs intended to nullify the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civic fields or any others. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation.

**Lifecycle Approach**: Many different sectors—education, health, social protection—impact the welfare and wellbeing of children and adults with disabilities. This approach aligns disability inclusion activities and inputs (as outlined in the implementation plan) to the lifecycle of children and adults with disabilities. This policy is informed in part by the Rwanda Disability Situational Analyses that reveal the experiences of PwDs, their major life stages, and disability's impact on their lives. The policy thus aims to ensure inclusion at critical moments of a child's development by strengthening the national child protection system and the education sector. Empowering adolescents and adults by ensuring they have the means and necessary resources to live independently in an inclusive society is integral to this process. The disability lifecycle approach is undertaken as a continuum from birth (child survival) and early childhood development to adolescence and adulthood and draws attention to key transitions in an individual's life.

**Habilitation/Rehabilitation services**: Experiences of practice in Rwanda indicate that the two terms are often used interchangeably, though they are actually defined differently. **Rehabilitation** refers to services given to newly persons with disabilities with the purpose of restoring some of the functionality they lost as a result of their disability. This is done mainly to help them acquire skills for independent living.

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations. (2006). *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol* (p.4). Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Al Ju'beh, K. (2015). Disability inclusive development toolkit. Bensheim: CBM. <http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/CBM-DID-TOOLKIT-accessible.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> WHO, (2013) A Practical Manual for using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). Geneva: WHO. [file:///C:/Users/UR-CE\\_21/Desktop/Book/Disability%20&%20development/icf.pdf](file:///C:/Users/UR-CE_21/Desktop/Book/Disability%20&%20development/icf.pdf)

**Habilitation** is similar to rehabilitation except that it is a service accorded to persons who had no functional skills in the first place at the time of acquiring the disability. It teaches new skills to people who never had them.

**Impairment<sup>6</sup>:** Impairment is the loss or limitation of physical, mental, or sensory function on a long term or permanent basis. The international classification of functioning, disability and health (ICF) states “Impairment, Disability, Handicap in terms of challenges in Body structures, Body Functions Activities and Participation.” In the Rwandan socio-cultural contexts, the concept ‘ubumuga’ is often used to denote “dysfunctions of a body” is also used to generally imply all the three concepts interchangeably. In this document, reference is made to Visual Disability/Difficulties, Hearing Disability/Difficulties, Physical Disability/Difficulties, Intellectual Challenges, and Multiple Disability.

**Inclusion:** Inclusion means every person has the possibility to participate fully and equally in all areas of life in society. Inclusion involves practices and policies designed to identify and remove barriers, like physical, communication, and attitudinal, that hamper individual ability to fully participate in society as people without disabilities<sup>7</sup>

An “inclusive” society is for all people and regardless differences of ability, race, gender, class, generation, and geography to ensures inclusion, equality of opportunity, and the capability of all members of the society to develop to their fullest potential and contribute to national development<sup>8</sup>.

**Inclusive Education:** This is the process of addressing all learners’ educational needs in a mainstream education setting. It is based on the principle that all learners are different and learn and develop differently, and so the education system should be flexible and adapted to accommodate learner’s needs. In the Rwandan socio-cultural context, this is often interpreted as ‘*Uburezi budaheza*’ or ‘*non-exclusionary education*’.

**Independent Living:** The ability of a person to live just like anyone else, to have opportunities to make decisions that affect their lives and to be able to pursue activities of their own choosing with the necessary support to enable PwDs to live independently

**Mainstream schools:** Also referred as ‘*ordinary*’ or ‘*regular*’ schools as opposed to ‘*special schools*’, mainstream schools educate learners that present minimal or no Special Educational Needs (SEN) and do not require any exceptional educational adjustments. Most mainstream Rwandan schools accommodate learners with a range of mild and moderate disabilities without adjustments to suit their needs.

**Non-discrimination:** The principle of non-discrimination seeks “to guarantee that human rights are exercised without discrimination of any kind based on race, sex, language, religion, ability, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status such

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-barriers.html>

<sup>8</sup> Adapted from United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Social Integration, Helsinki, July 2008



as disability, age, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, place of residence, economic and social situation”<sup>9</sup>

Under the constitution of Rwanda, all Rwandans are born and remain free and equal in rights and duties. Discrimination of whatever kind based on, inter alia, ethnic origin, tribe, clan, colour, sex, region, social origin, religion or faith, opinion, economic status, culture, language, social status, physical or mental disability, or any other form of discrimination, is prohibited and punishable by the law.

**People-first language:** People-first language is used to speak appropriately and respectfully with and about PwD. People-first language emphasizes the person and not the disability by starting phrases that refer to disability with “persons who” or “person with” as opposed to “disabled person”<sup>10</sup>.

**Rights-based society:** A rights-based society is grounded in the concept of human rights, including the right to development and legislative frameworks that protect the most vulnerable citizens.

**Special Educational Needs (SEN):** These are non-ordinary needs a learner may have in schooling as a result of intrinsic or extrinsic limitations/barriers. A learner with SEN will need extra attention/assistance from a teacher and/or the use of different educational approaches and/or tools.

**Special Needs Education:** This is education that aims to provide education services to all children who may, for any reason, have the temporary or permanent need for adjusted education. Experiences in the Rwandan context continue to indicate that the concept is largely interpreted as ‘*Uburezi bw’abafite ubumuga*’ or education for those with disabilities.

**Special School:** A special school is set and organized to provide educational services to learners with one specific type of disability or SEN. In Rwanda, there are special schools for the deaf, blind, and other specifically defined groups of learners.

**Support services:** These are special services offered by professionals and paraprofessionals in support of care givers and persons that work with PwDs. Professionals include speech therapy, occupational therapy, sign language interpretation, and counselling, among others. Paraprofessionals include community rehabilitation workers and friends of the family among others

**Universal design:** Universal design refers to products, environments, programmes, and services designed to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible without adaptation or modification. “Universal design” shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of PwDs where this is needed (UNCRPD).

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<sup>9</sup> Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 20, *Non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights*; 2009

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-strategies.html>

## **FOREWORD**

The National Policy of Persons with Disabilities builds on Government's commitment to empower, support and promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the country. The policy recognizes the achievements within the disability component and seeks to build on these strengths as the Government launches the next phase of development plans including the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) and Vision 2050. Attainment of these development targets is not possible if persons with disabilities are excluded from national development initiatives.

The National Policy of Persons with Disabilities acknowledges the historical, physical, social, cultural, attitudinal, and systemic barriers that have excluded persons with disabilities from participating fully in society like their fellow citizens without disabilities. The National Policy of Persons with Disabilities will be aligned to Government policies and strategies to support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in Rwanda's transformation agenda. Inclusion of persons with disabilities is not a charitable gesture, it is a right enshrined in the constitution of Rwanda and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Since 1994, the Government of Rwanda has placed inclusion and unity at the heart of the country's development. Rwanda cannot achieve sustainable development if the full inclusion is not promoted. . It is encouraging therefore that the policy draws on home-grown initiatives and Rwandan traditional values as important avenues for empowering persons with disabilities, fostering inclusion and unity of all Rwandans.

To develop this policy, the participation and active contribution of the disability community in Rwanda was integral at all stages of the process. The policy has been informed by the voices and experiences of children, adults, and families of persons with disabilities and Disabled Persons Organizations. As disability inclusion is a cross-cutting issue, many Government authorities at the national and local levels participated in the consultation process. We are grateful for their time and the valuable inputs shared of how disability can be included in the various Government sectors and throughout society. We are also grateful to all stakeholders for the technical and financial support for the development of this policy.

**Ministry of Local Government**

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **1. Introduction**

Rwanda has undertaken legislative and programmatic initiatives designed to empower and support persons with disabilities. However, there are gaps and challenges that need to be addressed to ensure full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the national development agenda. Since Rwanda ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2008, the country has made progress in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities through legislative reform and program design (United Nations, 2006). As commendable as this progress is, Persons with Disabilities are not fully included in all political and social economic aspects.

Since policies and programmes across most sectors are not inclusive of the needs and rights of Persons with Disabilities, typical, attitudinal, systemic, informational or communicational and environmental barriers constitute hindrances for persons with disabilities to access social, education, health, and other services. Furthermore, there is a challenge in relation with programme coordination in disability-related service delivery, as well as accountability and enforcement to comply with existing laws and regulations towards promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

To support the inclusion of PwDs, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is critical to ensure full and meaningful participation, particularly in rural and remote areas.

To continuously addressing these of challenges that are hindering the full inclusion of PWDs across all sectors, the Ministry of Local Government is developing the National Policy of Persons with Disabilities.

## **2. SITUATION ANALYSIS**

Historically, PwDs have struggled to live and enjoy their rights in the same way as those without disabilities. Negative beliefs, stereotypes, and attitudes were directed towards PwDs by members of their families and communities in which they live.

Findings from the Disability Situational Analysis (SitAn) confirmed that many of the challenges experienced by PwDs in Rwanda include but not limited to social stigma and cultural beliefs, low participation, limited and variable inclusion, low coverage of programs and services of persons with disability in national programs, a considerable gap between policies and implementation, lack of accurate and reliable data.

A survey conducted as part of the situation analysis revealed that most disability service providers in Rwanda are religious-based. However, these organisations are facing financial and coordination challenges that need to be addressed.

Additionally, limitations for early screening and detection among infants and children contribute to high rate of disability prevalence as there is a lost chance for managing disability at an earlier stage, which would increase the chances of improving their functionalities.

## **2.1. Disability prevalence**

The Fourth Rwanda Population and Housing Census (2012 RPHC) reports revealed that There are 446,453 PwDs in Rwanda Out of which 221,150 are male and 225,303 are female. When excluding children under five, for whom the identification of activity limitations poses problems, the disability prevalence rate is 5%. There is only a small difference by gender, with a prevalence rate of 5.2% for males (aged 5 and above) and 4.8% for females. Approximately 20% (87,900) of the population of persons with disabilities are children between the ages of five and eighteen. There is no data for children under the age of five. A higher poverty incidence is seen among households headed by a person with a disability (50%) than among households headed by a person with a disability (44%).

## **2.2.Perceptions towards disability**

Disability has been viewed through different lenses, including the medical, charity and social models. With the ratification of the UNCRPD, there is a shift in the social to human right model of disability. The medical model views disability as an individual problem directly caused by a disease, injury, or some other health condition requiring medical care in the form of treatment and rehabilitation.

The Rwandan law N° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 aligns with the medical model and defines disability as the condition of a person's impairment of health ability, which consequently leads to deficiency compared to others. Rwandans are influenced by the cultural perception that confuses *handicap, disability or impairment* by referring to all interchangeably as '*Ubumuga*'. Rwandan service providers are known to focus their attention on the inability or impairment of a person with disability instead of focusing on the removal of barriers that restrict participation as required by the UNCRPD, which the country has ratified .

## **2.3.Policy and Legal context**

The development of this policy is articulated on global, regional and national legal instruments interconnected with existing policies, all dominated by the constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 revised in 2015.

### **a) At global level**

The rights of persons with disabilities are expressed in the following instruments:

The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** in Article 2 that stipulates that "*Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.*"

The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (UNCRPD) of 2008 promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for the inherent dignity.

The **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** (ICESCR); the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The **Global Disability Summit commitments (London, July, 2018)** around the following themes:

- Tackling stigma and discrimination
- Inclusion in education
- Routes to economic empowerment
- Harnessing technology and innovation

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** which specifically commits the GoR to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

The **African Union (AU) Agenda 2063**, including the first ten-year plan which sets the following targets for the development of national social protection systems by 2023, at least 30% of vulnerable populations including PwDs, older persons, and children provided with social protection.

The **AU Social Policy Framework for Africa (2008)** which commits member states to adopt minimum social protection policies covering the following: essential health care, social insurance, social welfare, employment guarantee, and non-contributory cash transfer schemes for children, informal workers, the unemployed, elder persons, and PwDs.

## **b) National policy framework**

### **The Constitution of Rwanda of 2003 as revised in 2015**

The Constitution of Rwanda of 2003 as revised in 2015 provides the same fundamental rights for all citizens as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 10 Alinea 5 of the Constitution stipulates that: “*Building a State committed to promoting social welfare and establishing appropriate mechanisms for equal opportunity to social justice*” and article 51: Welfare of persons with disabilities and other needy persons.

Stipulated that: “..... *the state has also duty within its means to undertake special actions aimed at the welfare of persons with disabilities....*”

In addition to the constitution, there are also laws and ministerial orders protecting the rights of persons with disabilities

**Vision 2020 and 2050.** Vision 2020 seeks to fundamentally transform Rwanda into middle-income country by the year 2020. Among the range of targets in Vision 2020 several have direct relevance to the welfare of PwDs including: average per capita income of at least US\$1240, a Gini coefficient of no more than 0.350, a poverty rate of no higher than 20%, and chronic malnutrition rates of no more than 15%.

The **National Strategy for Transformation (NSTI)**: The NSTI integrates long-range global and regional commitments deriving from the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with multiple goals and targets across a range of economic, social, and environmental issues.

The **National Social Security Policy (2009)**: The policy sets specific coverage objectives for different branches of social security, namely pension, occupational hazards, medical care, sick leave, and maternity leave.

The **Integrated Child Rights Policy (2011)**: The policy notes the responsibility of the government for supporting families in providing good care for their children and to “put in place a national child protection system, a monitoring system including mechanisms for data management, formal reporting, referral and response.”

The **Early Childhood Development Policy (2016)** clearly articulates the role of social protection in supporting Early Childhood Development (ECD).

## **2.4. Disability Budgets**

The proportion of national budgets allocated to the disability inclusion programme and National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) tend to be relatively low compared to persons with disabilities’ special needs. For mainstreaming purpose, all public institutions are mindful to plan and coordinate persons with disabilities’ related interventions thus “**disability budget statement**” is necessary.

## **2.5 Coordination, accountability, Monitoring and Evaluation framework**

Rwanda has established the National Council of Persons with Disabilities to promote the welfare of PwDs and acts as an important government agency advocating and representing the population and communities of PwDs. However, NCPD often face a challenge to hold accountable other institutions to comply with laws and regulations for proper mainstreaming of PwDs.

## **2.6 Key issues emerging from stakeholder consultations**

Nationwide stakeholder consultations were undertaken to support the development of this policy. This included interviews and focus groups with diverse range of stakeholders at the national, provincial, cell, and sector levels. A national survey and three workshops were undertaken to identify disability services and needs, validate findings, and solicit feedback and input. PwDs were included in all stages of the consultation process.

The key emerging issues were as follows:

- i. There are loopholes in mainstreaming disability across different sectors mainly in health, education, social protection, agriculture, infrastructure, employment, justice, child protection, sports and leisure.
- ii. Poverty and poor living conditions characterize the lives of many children and adults with disabilities. There is need for a more responsive and inclusive social protection system that includes a guaranteed income for PwDs.
- iii. NCPD often face a challenge to hold accountable other institutions to comply with laws and regulations for proper mainstreaming of PwDs.
- iv. Institutions that provide care, support, and welfare to PwDs face human capacity gaps across all sectors.
- v. There is considerable concern that Children with Disabilities's special needs are not adequately prioritized
- vi. There is a need to strengthen community awareness and sensitivity towards equitable access to services, inclusion, participation, and rights of PwDs.

### **3. POLICY ORIENTATION**

This policy intends to promote the full inclusion and participation of PwDs in all sectors of Rwandan society. The policy sets out priorities for addressing issues of disability, and promotes an inclusive, barrier-free, and rights-based society.

**Vision:** A country in which all Persons with Disabilities enjoy full inclusion, participation and live a dignified active, productive, healthy and secure life.

**Mission:** The mission of this policy is to establish a multi-sectorial and coordinated system that overcomes all barriers faced by persons with disabilities to ensure and promote their full inclusion.

**Target population:** The target population for this Policy includes all PwDs, whether these refer to physical, mental, intellectual, communication, or sensory impairments that in interaction with various barriers may hinder a person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. The policy also targets PwDs as individuals and as members of society and addresses all aspects of their lives in line with the lifecycle approach.

**Objective:** The overall objective of the policy is the inclusion of PwDs through accessible services, as well as supportive and transformative environments

### **4. Disability Inclusion Principles**

This policy is guided by the eight principles that are outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which are : Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons, Non-discrimination, Full and effective participation and inclusion in society, Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity,

Equality of opportunity, Accessibility, Equality between men and women and Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

## **5. Institutional Framework**

MINALOC has the overall oversight of the National policy of Persons with Disabilities, NCPD is the custodian implementing agency. In this framework, the other stakeholders have a great role to play to attain the desired objective of this policy. A number of stakeholders required are government institutions (MIGEPROF, MINAGRI, MINEMA, MOH, MINISPORTS, MINIJUST, MIFOTRA, MINECOFIN, MININFRA, MINEDUC, MINICT, NCC, RDRC, NECDP, NISR, the Districts, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, Development partners, Media, Faith Based Organizations, Communities and households themselves).

## **6. IMPLICATIONS OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

This Policy once implemented will have an immediate implication on legal framework, impact on business and the economy as well as an impact on equality, discrimination, unity and reconciliation.

## **7. Contribution of Policy to National Strategy for Transformation (NST1)**

The policy actions related interventions and outcomes contribute to NST1 outcomes and priority areas within Economic, Social Transformation and Transformational Governance pillars.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Rwanda has undertaken legislative and programmatic initiatives designed to empower and support persons with disabilities. However, there are gaps and challenges that need to be addressed to ensure full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the national development agenda. The Government of Rwanda is putting forward an articulated vision and strategy for including PwDs in all sectors to ensure that they are not left behind, as the country moves towards Vision 2050.

Since Rwanda ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2008, the country has made progress in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities through legislative reform and program design (United Nations, 2006)<sup>11</sup>. As commendable as this progress is, Persons with Disabilities are not fully included in all political and social economic aspects.

Since policies and programmes across most sectors are not inclusive of the needs and rights of Persons with Disabilities, the majority of this population is disproportionately poor and unemployed, where approximately 41% have not completed formal education (NISR, 2012). Typical, attitudinal, systemic (e.g., policies, practices, procedures) informational or communicational and environmental barriers constitute hindrances for Persons with disabilities to access social, education, health, and other services.

Furthermore, there is a challenge in relation with programme coordination in disability-related service delivery, as well as accountability and enforcement to comply with existing laws and regulations towards promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Viewing disability as a human rights and development issue emphasizes the importance that equal opportunities within various systems of society and environments are made available and accessible to all citizens. Inclusion for all citizens in Rwanda is essential for the development of the economy, national unity, and overall prosperity for the country and so the inclusion of PwDs in national development planning is crucial.

To support the inclusion of PwDs, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is critical to ensure full and meaningful participation, particularly in rural and remote areas. CBR refers to an overarching goal of inclusion for all (i.e., gender, disability, age etc..) in communities and society.<sup>12</sup> CBR is an important program that is used specifically to achieve inclusion for PwDs and further contribute towards the goal of full inclusion.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

<sup>12</sup> International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC). (2012). CBR Guidelines as a Tool for Community Based Inclusive Development. [https://www.iddcconsortium.net/sites/default/files/resources-tools/files/brochure\\_summary\\_bat.pdf](https://www.iddcconsortium.net/sites/default/files/resources-tools/files/brochure_summary_bat.pdf)

By prioritizing disability in a new national policy of persons with disabilities, Rwanda will be in a stronger position to attain the key national development targets outlined in the National Strategy for the Transformation (NST), including the Sustainable Development Goals

In view of the above, the Ministry of Local Government is developing the National Policy of Persons with Disabilities to address a number of challenges that are hindering the full inclusion of PwDs across all sectors.

## **2. SITUATION ANALYSIS**

In 2008, Rwanda ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and has since made tremendous progress in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities through legislative reform and program design (United Nations, 2006)<sup>13</sup>. Enacting several laws supporting and protecting the rights of PwDs, Rwanda has created a strong enabling environment. Although these policies and laws are important, there remains a fissure between legal policy frameworks and the actual experiences of PwDs in Rwanda.

Until recently, little evidence has documented these barriers<sup>14</sup>. Findings from Disability Situational Analysis (SitAn)<sup>15</sup> confirm that many of the challenges identified in the NCPD's 2014 mainstreaming guidelines are still experienced by PwDs in Rwanda. The data confirms low participation, limited and variable inclusion, low coverage of programs and services of persons with disability in national programs such as One Cow Per Poor Family (GIRINKA) and the Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP).

Additionally, there is a chasm between duty bearers and PwDs especially in rural areas. The SitAn confirms that Rwanda has created a strong enabling environment, however there is still a considerable gap between policies and its implementation, posing a major barrier in the realization of rights for PwDs. Furthermore, the SitAn confirms social stigmas and cultural beliefs shape how communities, local authorities, and health, social, and education providers respond to PwDs. Lower priority is given to the disability mainstreaming agenda, particularly for children. The lack of accurate and reliable data has permitted the beliefs among some that the needs of PwDs have been and continue to be met to go unchallenged.

### **2.1. Background of Persons with Disabilities**

Historically, PwDs have struggled to live and enjoy their rights in the same way as those without disabilities. Negative beliefs, stereotypes, and attitudes were directed towards PwDs by members of their families and communities in whom they live. Disability was and is still seen by some people as a curse, burden, witchcraft or punishment from God. Many children

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

<sup>14</sup> UNICEF (2017) Children Rights and Sustainable Development in Rwanda: A situational Assessment and Analysis p.48

<sup>15</sup> UNICEF Rwanda (2018) Rwanda Disability Situational Analysis

with disabilities (CwDs) were and in many cases are still seen as misfortune to their families. Parents or siblings do not want them to be seen by other people so as to not, as they say, bring shame to the whole family; and in turn CwDs are kept indoors by members of the family because they do not want others to know that they live with a person with disability. In addition, society tends to address persons with disabilities by the type of their disabilities and not their names. All of these beliefs and actions prevent PwDs from enjoying their full human rights.

Although there has been some progress, PwDs are discriminated in matters of inheritance. Land, livestock, and other family assets are inherited by other family members without disabilities under the pretext that those with disabilities cannot manage or make good use of them. Persons with severe disabilities face the most negative attitudes, including name calling and exclusion, specifically those with mental and intellectual disabilities.

Before the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, services for PwDs were provided by religious charity organisations such as Home de la Vierge des Pauvres (HVP) Gatagara, an early pioneer. A survey conducted as part of the situation analysis revealed that most disability service providers in Rwanda are religious based. However, these organisations faced and continue to face financial and coordination challenges that need to be addressed.

There is significant progress in addressing negative attitudes and beliefs towards PwDs and creating an equal and non-discriminatory society where PwDs will fully enjoy their human rights and contribute to the development of their families, communities, and the country at large. Laws, policies, and programs were formulated with the aim of involving PwDs in the national development process. For the better management and implementation of policies regarding PwDs, the Government put in place the NCPD as an independent public agency affiliated to the Ministry of Local Government to advocate for PwDs and monitor the implementation of the laws which protect them. Although these policies and laws are important, there remains a gap between legal policy frameworks and the actual experiences of PwDs in Rwanda. The National Policy of Persons with disabilities sets policy actions and strategic interventions for PwDs in the national development agenda.

## **2.2. Disability prevalence**

The Fourth Rwanda Population and Housing Census (2012 RPHC) report revealed that there are 446,453 PwDs in Rwanda: 221,150 are male and 225,303 are female; there is only a small difference by gender, with a prevalence rate of 5.2% for males (aged 5 and above) and 4.8% for females. Approximately 20% (87,900) of the population of persons with disabilities are children between the ages of five and eighteen. However, the proportion of children under five is not accounted which leads to lost opportunity to address disability at early stage of life. . . . Moreover, a higher poverty incidence is seen among households headed by a person with a disability (50%) than among households headed by a person without a disability (44%).

## **2.3. Perceptions towards disability**

Disability has been viewed through different lenses, including the medical, charity and social models. With the ratification of the UNCRPD, there is a shift in the human right model of disability. The medical model views disability as an individual problem directly caused by a

disease, injury, or some other health condition requiring medical care in the form of treatment and rehabilitation. In this regard, the medical model is akin to the charity model which casts the individual as a passive victim. The social model considers disability a social construct created by environments which exclude persons with impairments from full participation as a result of attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers. It emphasizes that society must adapt and remove participation barriers to include PwDs through changing attitudes, practices, and policies while also acknowledging the role of the medical professional<sup>16</sup>. The human right model emphasises on removing all barriers as stipulated in different binding documents mainly laws and policies in order to fully mainstream Persons with Disabilities in all sectors.

The Rwandan law N° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 aligns with the medical model and defines disability as the condition of a person's impairment of health ability which consequently leads to deficiency compared to others. It is notable that while Rwandan policies and legislations clarify the country's position, when contributing to the international standards that focus on the removal of all forms of participation restrictions (or handicaps) according to the WHO's guidelines (ICF, 2011), Rwandans are influenced by the cultural perception that confuses **handicap, disability or impairment** by referring to all interchangeably as '*Ubumuga*'. Rwandan service providers are known to focus their attention on the inability or impairment of a person with disability instead of focusing on the removal of barriers that restrict his or her participation or handicap as required by the UNCRPD, which the country has signed. For example, Rwandan law N° 01/2007 of 20/01/2007 pledges free public transport to PwDs who are on duty, yet is silent on the barriers presented by roads, public vehicles, and transport fare procedures.

#### **2.4. Access to healthcare**

A number of sectors which impact the welfare of PwDs are health, education, employment and accessibility. Accessing healthcare in all its forms is challenging for PwDs because of associated costs, distance from service providers, and systemic and institutional healthcare practices and barriers. Health service access data does not disaggregate by disability which undermines planning and decision making. Eleven of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require disaggregation by disability. Disaggregated disability data is important if achievements in health care recorded by Rwanda are to be extended to all citizens. In addition, there is little documented evidence about the physical and social barriers that PwDs may face in accessing health services<sup>17</sup>.

The present policy is particularly concerned about access to rehabilitation and therapeutic services, assistive aids, and other key health provisions that enable PwD equal access participation to socio-economic activities.

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<sup>16</sup> Rohwerder, B. (2015)

<sup>17</sup> UNICEF (2017) Children Rights and Sustainable Development in Rwanda: A situational Assessment and Analysis p.48

## **2.5. Barriers faced by Children with Disabilities**

Rwanda's legal frameworks characterize children's (below 18 years of age) access to basic services, such as education, as fundamental rights. The Constitution of Rwanda as revised in 2015 (Article 20) describes primary education as free and compulsory. Related policies articulate more specific approaches to addressing particular children's groups including the Strategic Plan for Street Children of 2005, Special Needs and Inclusive Education Policy of 2019, Girls' Education Policy of 2008, and Early Childhood Development Policy of 2016.

However, for the last ten years, Successive Education Sector strategic plans (ESSP) have continued to note high school dropout rates for vulnerable children (28.3% in Primary 5 and 10.2% in Primary 1) since 2005. For example, the Rwanda Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) of 2013-2018<sup>18</sup> confirmed that more Children with Disabilities (CwDs) have never attended school than those without any (27% versus 14%) and more CwDs dropped out of school than those without (9% versus 6%).

The Ministry of Education (2017)<sup>19</sup> report indicates that out of 185,666 children enrolled in pre-primary education, 1,545 children are CwDs, representing less than 1% of enrolled students. The number of CwDs enrolled at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels are similarly very low and well below the expected proportion of PwDs (approximately 15% of the population using WHO's definition of disability or 5% using Rwanda's definition).

Accordingly, a seven to eight-year-old child with disability is three times less likely to start school at the proper age, has an 18% greater chance of repeating a primary school class, and is four times more likely to drop out of school than a child with no disability. Nearly all Rwandan schools and learning institutions are inadequately child friendly and/or disabled-friendly.

Due to stigma and fear of being excluded by community members, particularly in rural areas, many CwDs are frequently hidden indoors. Families may not register their children with authorities (e.g., health centres, schools, census officers) for fear of familial shame.

As a matter of facts, the education sector (ESSP 2013/14-2018/2019) affirms that over 27% CwDs have never accessed schooling mainly because Rwandan basic education is not endowed with any form of standardized support provisions for CwDs.

Consequently, the actual numbers of CwDs is likely underreported. This has implications for the availability and expansion of services for CwDs and the strategies needed to strengthen inclusion.

Further, the experiences of children with multiple or complex disabilities are not well understood and under reported. Disaggregating information by disability, age (no data for children below 5 years is collected), and sex could better support the development and setting of key priorities. In addition, there are whole populations of CwDs, such as those in refugee settings, whose information is not captured.

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<sup>18</sup> Source: 1. Rwanda Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) 2013-2018  
2. <http://statistics.gov.rw/node/1086>

<sup>19</sup> Ministry of Education (2017) Education Sector Strategic Plan 2018/19-2022-23. p.20

Lastly, the limitations for early screening and detection among infants and children contribute to high rate of disability prevalence as there is a lost chance for managing disability at an earlier stage, which would increase the chances of improving their functionalities.

## **2.6. 2.6. Policy and Legal context**

a) **At global level**, the rights of persons with disabilities are expressed in the following instruments:

- The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (Article 25) stipulates that “*Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.*”
- The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (UNCRPD) of 2008 promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for the inherent dignity.
- The **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** (ICESCR); the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The **Global Disability Summit commitments (London, July, 2018)** around the following themes:

- Tackling stigma and discrimination
- Inclusion in education
- Routes to economic empowerment
- Harnessing technology and innovation
- The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** which specifically commits the GoR to:
  - i. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable and,
  - ii. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
  - iii. Disaggregate data by disability in eleven of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among other targets ensures comparability of data at the global level.
    - Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
    - Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
  - Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
  - Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
  - Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among nations
  - Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
  - Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
  - Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
- The **African Union (AU) Agenda 2063**, including the first ten-year plan which sets the following targets for the development of national social protection systems by 2023:
    - i. At least 30% of vulnerable populations including PwDs, older persons, and children provided with social protection.
    - ii. All persons working in the formal sector are provided with social security and at least 20% of the informal sector and rural labour to have access to social security.
    - iii. A minimum social protection package for vulnerable groups to be developed by 2016 and resources ring-fenced in national budget by 2017.
  - The **AU Social Policy Framework for Africa (2008)** which commits member states to adopt minimum social protection policies covering the following: essential health care, social insurance, social welfare, employment guarantee, and non-contributory cash transfer schemes for children, informal workers, the unemployed, elder persons, and PwDs.
  - **EAC Vision 2050** commits member states to review and harmonize their national social security policies, laws, and systems to provide for social security for self-employed persons who are citizens in line with Article 12 (2) of the EAC Treaty. Article 5(2) (c) and Article 10 (3) (f) also provide a strong basis for social protection within the framework of the EAC.

## **b) National policy framework**

- **The Constitution of Rwanda as revised in 2015**

The Constitution of Rwanda of 2003 as revised in 2015 provides the same fundamental rights for all citizens as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 10 alinea 5 of the Constitution stipulates:

*“Building a State committed to promoting social welfare and establishing appropriate mechanisms for equal opportunity to social justice”.*

Article 51: Welfare of persons with disabilities and other needy persons.

Stipulated that: “.... the state has also duty within its means to undertake special actions aimed at the welfare of persons with disabilities....”

In addition to the constitution, there are also laws and ministerial orders protecting the rights of persons with disabilities:

- Law N° 01/2007 relating to the protection of PwDs in general.
- Law N° 02/2007: Protection of former war ex-combatants with disabilities.
- Law N°71/2018: Protection of the rights of the child with specific protection for CwDs.
- Law N°03/2011: Responsibilities, organization and functioning of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities.

- **Vision 2020 and 2050**

Vision 2020 seeks to fundamentally transform Rwanda into middle-income country by the year 2020. Among the range of targets in Vision 2020 several have direct relevance to the welfare of PwDs including: average per capita income of at least US\$1240, a Gini coefficient of no more than 0.350, a poverty rate of no higher than 20%, and chronic malnutrition rates of no more than 15%.

Rwanda will be transitioning to Vision 2050, which aims to deliver high income status and high standards of living for all by 2050. The implementation instrument for the remainder of Vision 2020 and for the first four years of Vision 2050 will be the **National Strategy for Transformation (NST1)**. The NSTI integrates long-range global and regional commitments deriving from the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with multiple goals and targets across a range of economic, social, and environmental issues, the African Union Agenda 2063 and its First 10-Year Implementation Plan 2014-2023, and the EAC

Vision 2050. NST1 prioritizes Economic Transformation, Social Transformation, and Transformational Governance<sup>20</sup>.

- **The National Social Security Policy (2009)**

Rwanda commits to a vision of *Social security coverage for all* and makes a firm commitment to “develop all necessary programs and mechanisms aimed at universal social security coverage. This means that all Rwandans will be covered with maximum benefits possible for retirement and key pre- retirement benefits such as housing and education, for professional risks benefits, sickness benefits, maternity benefits, health care, and eventually unemployment benefits when social and economic conditions will allow this last branch to be implemented.”

The policy also sets specific coverage objectives for different branches of social security, namely pension, occupational hazards, medical care, sick leave, and maternity leave.

- **The Integrated Child Rights Policy (2011)**

This policy is aligned to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is a comprehensive national document detailing Rwanda’s vision and commitment to all children. It was developed to strengthen the thinking and analysis around policies related to children and the coordination and implementation of government activities for realization of children’s rights. The policy

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<sup>20</sup> Government of Rwanda. National Strategy for Transformation 1 2017-2024.



notes the responsibility of the government for supporting families in providing good care for their children and to “put in place a national child protection system, a monitoring system including mechanisms for data management, formal reporting, referral and response.”

### **The National Early Childhood Development Policy (2016)**

This Policy clearly articulates the role of social protection in supporting Early Childhood Development (ECD) and specifically calls for the government to:

- i. Ensure ECD interventions are mainstreamed into social protection programmes to support poor and vulnerable families and children. This includes ECD related cash incentives to vulnerable families.
- ii. Identify families struggling to maintain their children and provide support for their care. Specific attention will be given to single parents and guardians (adoptive or biological). Various social protection measures in cash/kind are to be explored.
- iii. Prioritise children in the design and implementation of programmes for poverty reduction, such that child poverty is eliminated within a stipulated period of time.
- iv. Explore provision of direct support to families in difficult circumstances, child headed households, orphans, and other vulnerable children.”

### **2.7. Coordination, accountability, Monitoring and Evaluation framework**

Similar to several countries, Rwanda has established the National Council of Persons with Disabilities as a statutory body whose mandate and functions are established by law. The NCPD is entrusted to promote the full inclusion of PwDs and acts as an important government agency advocating and representing the PwDs as well as coordinating all interventions related to PwDs. The proportion of national budgets allocated to the disability inclusion programme and National Council of persons with disabilities (NCPD) tends to be relatively low compared to persons with disabilities’ special needs. For mainstreaming purpose, all public institutions are mindful to plan persons with disabilities’ related interventions thus “disability budget statement” is necessary as per the government Global Disability Summit 2018 commitments.

### **2.8. Key issues emerging from stakeholder consultations**

Nationwide stakeholder consultations were undertaken to support the development of this policy. This included interviews and focus groups with diverse range of stakeholders at the national, provincial, cell, and sector levels. A national survey and three workshops were undertaken to identify disability services and needs, validate findings, and solicit feedback and input. PwDs were included in all stages of the consultation process.

The key emerging issues were as follows:

- i. There are loopholes in mainstreaming disability across different sectors mainly in health, education, social protection, agriculture, infrastructure, employment, child protection and sports and leisure.

- ii. Poverty and poor living conditions characterize the lives of many children and adults with disabilities. There is need for a more responsive and inclusive social protection system that includes a guaranteed income for PwDs.
- iii. NCPD often face a challenge to hold accountable other institutions to comply with laws and regulations for proper mainstreaming of PwDs.
- iv. Institutions that provide care, support, and welfare to PwDs face human capacity gaps across all sectors.
- v. There is considerable concern that CwDs's special needs are not adequately prioritized
- vi. There is a need to strengthen community awareness and sensitivity towards equitable access to services, inclusion, participation, and rights of PwDs.

### **3. POLICY ORIENTATION**

This policy intends to promote the full participation and inclusion of PwDs in all sectors of Rwandan society.

#### **3.1. Statement of National Policy of Persons with Disabilities**

The National Policy of Persons with Disabilities promotes the full participation and inclusion of PwDs in all sectors of Rwandan society. Drawing on the Rwandan values of mutual respect, support, and belief in home grown solutions, PwDs will enjoy the dignity and respect afforded to all people living in Rwanda and will have equal access and opportunities to contribute their knowledge, experience, and capabilities to Rwanda's national development.

#### **3.2. Approach of the Policy**

The policy sets out priorities for addressing issues of disability, and promotes an inclusive, barrier-free, and rights-based society. An "inclusive" society means a society for all people and a "barrier-free" society means a society free from physical, social, cultural, and attitudinal barriers that exclude people from being full participants in society. A "rights-based" society means a society based on the concept of human rights, including the right to development and a legislative framework that protects the most vulnerable.

#### **3.3. Vision**

A country in which all Persons with Disabilities enjoy full inclusion, participation and live a dignified active, productive, healthy and secure life.

#### **3.4. Mission**

The mission of this policy is to establish a multi-sectorial and coordinated system that overcomes all barriers faced by persons with disabilities to ensure and promote their full inclusion.

### **3.5. Target population**

The target population for the National Policy of Persons with Disabilities, whether these refer to physical, mental, intellectual, communication, or sensory impairments that in interaction with various barriers that may hinder a person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others (UNCRPD, 2006). The policy recognizes that children and women with disabilities face multiple barriers and extended exclusion. The policy targets PwDs as individuals and as members of society and addresses all aspects of their lives in line with the lifecycle approach.

### **3.6. Objectives**

#### **General objective**

To guide the implementation and coordination of interventions that promotes the full inclusion and participation of Persons with disabilities (PwDs) in all sectors.

#### **Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of this policy cover are following:

1. Promote access to social security and income support programs for vulnerable persons with Disabilities;
2. Establish specific policies and regulations that promote digital inclusion for PwDs ;
3. Empower PwDs with access to digital services and technology innovative solutions ;
4. Promote universal design standards and regulations supporting accessible and affordable infrastructure to PwDs;
5. Improve enrolment, retention, and completion rates of 12YBE level for all categories of children with disabilities;
6. Promote rights of children with disabilities;
7. Increase the participation of persons with disabilities in employment and other sectors;
8. Establish various special needs of Persons with Disabilities for full participation in all agricultural programs and initiatives;
9. Strengthen early identification, diagnostic assessment, and intervention, prioritizing children with disabilities and mothers;
10. Subsidise the provision of assistive devices and disability related health care services to PwDs;
11. Promote social and cultural activities among Persons with Disabilities;
12. Promote inclusive technology to PwDs;
13. Strengthen disability coordination and inclusion across all sectors;
14. Monitor and evaluate all interventions of persons with disabilities

### **3.7. Policy actions**

The key policy actions respond to the following specific objectives:

**S.O.1:** Promote access social assistance, social security and income support programs for vulnerable persons with Disabilities

- ❖ Ensure affordability and accessibility of shelter to eligible persons with disabilities.
  - ❖ Ensure the provision of regular and reliable direct income support to eligible Persons with Disabilities.
- S.O.2:** Promote universal design standards and regulations supporting accessible and affordable infrastructure to PwDs.
- ❖ Enhance accessibility of infrastructure (transport, buildings, roads) to PwDs.
- rights.
- S.O.3:** Improve enrolment, retention, and completion rates of 12YBE level for all categories of children with disabilities
- ❖ Define categories of disability-related Special Educational Needs
  - ❖ Set standards and guidelines for special and inclusive schools
  - ❖ Establish and equip resource rooms/centers in special and inclusive schools as well as Higher Learning Institutions (HLIs).
  - ❖ Train teachers on the use of adapted technologies and development of local education resources
- S.O.4:** Promote rights of children with disabilities;
- ❖ Increase awareness of rights of children with Disabilities and their families
  - ❖ Mobilize communities to address social and cultural barriers to inclusion.
- S.O 5:** Increase the participation of persons with disabilities in employment and other sectors
- ❖ Promote employability in favour of persons with disabilities across all sectors
  - ❖ Incentivise private sector to employ PwDs.
- S.O. 6:** Establish various special needs of Persons with Disabilities for full participation in all agricultural programs and initiatives;
- ❖ Promote inclusive agricultural to PwDs.
- S.O.7:** Strengthen early identification, diagnostic assessment, and intervention, prioritizing children with disabilities and mothers
- ❖ Increase awareness to general population on disability detection and prevention
- S.O.8:** Subsidise the provision of assistive devices and disability related health care services to PwDs;
- ❖ Promote access to health care and rehabilitation for PwDs
- S.O.9:** Promote social and cultural activities among Persons with Disabilities
- ❖ Ensure inclusive sport and cultural activities for all.
  - ❖ Promote the usage of sign language in all sectors
- S.O.10:** Promote inclusive technology to PwDs
- ❖ Increase access to adaptive technology to PwDs
- S.O.11:** Strengthen disability coordination and inclusion across all sectors.
- ❖ Ensure efficiency and effective coordination framework among all stakeholders.
  - ❖ Ensure smooth running of PwDs related interventions.
- S.O.12:** Monitor and evaluate all interventions of persons with disabilities
- ❖ Ensure reliable delivery system for proper monitoring and evaluation.

### **3.8. Disability Inclusion Principles**

This policy is guided by the eight principles that are provided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as ratified by Rwanda on December 15, 2008:

- (a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- (b) Non-discrimination;
- (c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (d) Adhere to digital inclusion and technology innovation for empowering PwDs ;
- (e) Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- (f) Equality of opportunity;
- (g) Accessibility;
- (h) Equality between men and women;
- (i) Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

## **4. Institutional framework**

To implement the National Policy of Persons with Disabilities, all stakeholders will include disability related interventions in their plans and budgeting as outlined in implementation plan of this policy.

The roles and responsibilities of institutions at the national decentralised and sector levels are defined, including a review of institutional accountability and oversight of disability inclusion.

### **4.1. Institutional arrangement**

#### **National level**

MINALOC has the overall oversight of the National policy of Persons with Disabilities. Staffing, structure, and associated resources at MINALOC and NCPD will require regular review to ensure these key organizations provide the necessary leadership and accountability for disability across the country.

Inter-sectoral coordination is pivotal to realizing the objectives of the policy. Existing national Disability Coordination Forum (DCF) will provide the necessary strategic and technical guidance for nationwide disability inclusion and accountability.

These inter-ministerial working groups will oversee individual ministerial disability inclusion in policies and programmes. Each Ministry, agencies and other stakeholders are responsible

for ensuring disability inclusion in its policies and programmes and are obliged to report on the status of implementation of this policy.

Additionally, each Ministry, agencies and other stakeholders shall include within administrative structures a focal person responsible for promotion of inclusion and access to services.

### **Decentralized Level**

At the District level, the Districts shall be responsible for disability inclusion by including disability related interventions in their Development strategies and shall report on regular basis the status of implementation of this policy.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

NCPD shall develop a monitoring and evaluation framework and in collaboration with stakeholders under Disability Coordination Forum to put in place a mechanism to facilitate a participatory process for information gathering, analysis, dissemination, and feedback on the implementation of this Policy.

#### **4.2. Roles and responsibilities**

Successful implementation of the National Policy of Persons with Disabilities will require a wide range of role players and duty-bearers. A focal person for disability inclusion shall be designated by each agency to liaise with NCPD on disability mainstreaming. The roles and responsibilities of the respective government Ministries and agencies as well as other role players, such as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and communities are outlined below:

#### **Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC)**

- Coordinate all the activities related to the policy, from development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and all disability related services across the country;
- Develop institutional and human resource capacities, including assessing and building the capacities of decentralised entities working in the disability services units;
- Promote the inter-ministerial relationships through disability focal points in each ministry;
- Advocate for and mobilise resources for the policy implementation;
- Oversee the mainstreaming of this policy and related issues by ensuring that various departments/agencies deliver specific mandates effectively;
- Provide and facilitate the provision of social protection services to PwDs;
- Invest in community-reintegration of PwDs and promote independent living;
- Develop a national communication strategy that will systematically advocate for increased community awareness and sensitivity to equitable access to services for PwDs across all sectors.

#### **Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI)**

- Review and make agricultural policies and programmes inclusive in order to maximise their contribution to reducing poverty and vulnerability among PwDs;
- Build the capacity of local governments to deliver relevant high quality agricultural support services to poor and vulnerable households, including those of PwDs;
- Improve accessibility of the buildings/spaces where agricultural services (e.g., selected seeds, trainings, fertilisers) are provided so that PwDs can easily access them;
- Introduce agricultural equipment that is accessible and usable for PwDs.

### **Ministry of Education (MINEDUC)**

- Ensure inclusion and effective access to education;
- Elaborate and implement accessibility standards in schools, student support services, and special education needs;
- Develop a standardized inclusive and special education curriculum;
- Oversee mainstreaming PwDs in the education system;
- Promote capacity building of inclusive and special education professionals, teachers, and students;
- Put in place the enrolment strategy, retention, and completion rates for all categories of CwDs in school up to at least 12YBE level;
- Promote and reinforce Inclusive and Child-Friendly school strategies in all educational settings.

### **Ministry of Health (MoH)**

- Ensure inclusion of disability in the Health Sector Policy and its strategic plan;
- Strengthen early detection, intervention, and rehabilitation;
- Ensure availability and affordability of assistive devices at subsidized cost;
- Ensure that specialized medical services are available countrywide;
- Build the capacity of healthcare professionals in disability detection, rehabilitation services, and other disability-related health services;
- Promote barrier free all health facilities;
- Strengthen capacity for evidence-based policy and programming on disability.

### **Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF)**

- Ensure access to sustainable and comprehensive care and support for CwDs through government and community-based rehabilitation and inclusive development initiatives.
- Prevent family separation by expanding comprehensive support for parents and communities raising CwDs;
- Develop and roll-out Minimum Standards of Care and Inclusion for children with disabilities;
- Reintegrate CwDs living in institutions or other large residential care settings into family-based homes;

- Promote the inclusion of gender-related policies for PwDs prioritizing pregnant women/girls with disabilities;
- Ensure that programmes implemented by the National Council for Children (NCC) and the National Early Childhood Development Programme (NECDP) are inclusive of CwDs.

#### **Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance (MINECOFIN)**

- Ensure, to the extent that is possible, that resources are allocated to finance the policy implementation;
- Ensure that financial management systems enable sufficiently detailed tracking of this policy expenditures to assure accountability for resources and evaluation of value-for-money in the provision of disability services;
- Initiate and monitor the implementation of Disability Budget Statement.

#### **Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA)**

- Ensure the availability of inclusive infrastructures:
  - Ensure application of universal design in all settings (roads, vehicles, buildings)
  - Ensure application of Rwanda Building Code, Standards and Accessibility Codes in government housing programmes (imidugudu/settlements) and other public buildings.
  - Upgrade existing and new infrastructure to improve accessibility and mobility for PwDs.
  - Install and maintain appropriate signage at all tourist sites and attractions in accordance with universal design.

#### **Ministry of Justice (MINIJUST)**

- Make legislative amendments related to disability issues across different sectors (e.g., health, education, employment);
- Make and ensure the enactment of legislation that is inclusive, non-discriminatory and barrier-free;
- Monitor the effectiveness of existing strategy and new barrier-free legislation;
- Enforce compliance with laws protecting PwDs.

#### **Ministry of Emergence Management (MINEMA)**

- Strengthen national disaster response protocols and procedures to ensure that persons with disabilities are prioritized and receive appropriate support;
- Ensure National Disaster Response plan is disability inclusive;
- Register and assess the special needs of refugees with disabilities and link PwDs to service providers.

#### **Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA)**



- Strengthen policies to support employment and recruitment of PwDs more broadly;
- Promotes an inclusive and disability-friendly work environment;
- Promote barrier –free recruitment procedures;
- Put in place job creation strategies in public service and incentives to the private sector to encourage recruitment and employment of PwDs.

### **Ministry of Sports (MINISPORTS)**

- Promote sporting activities for Persons with Disabilities nationally and internationally, by expanding sponsorship available to competing teams and individuals;
- Provide national guidelines for inclusive sporting, recreational activities that facilitate PwD;
- Ensure accessibility of existing sporting, recreational, and make national and community events inclusive.
- Provide sports opportunities to children and adults with disabilities in sharpening their skills in sports fields;
- Promote inclusive communication including sign language in all sporting and recreational facilities.

### **Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT)**

- Establish relevant policies and regulations that promote digital inclusion for PwDs ;
- Promote innovative digital & technology solutions to empower PwDs for self-independence;
- Ensure putting in place relevant programs for training PwDs in digital literacy, Science, and Innovation (STI) domain;

### **National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda**

- Generate disaggregated statistical data on PWDs inclusion

### **Districts**

- Ensure mainstreaming of National policy of Persons with Disabilities’ implementation plan in Districts Development Strategies (DDS), action plans and Imihigo.

### **Role of Private sector**

- Collaborate with government institutions in the implementation of the National policy of Persons with Disabilities and promote partnerships in relation to disability services;
- Ensure compliance with policy guidelines and laws protecting PwDs, including labour laws;
- Create working environments that are inclusive, non-discriminatory, accessible, and barrier-free;

- Provide appropriate services (financial, health, education, etc.) to PwDs;
- Provide financial and technological skills to PwDs, their families, and caregivers to contribute to the implementation of this policy.

### **Role of Civil Society Organizations**

- Provide a wide range of services for PwDs;
- Engage in the formulation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the policy and provide advice, sharing information and expertise on various issues relating to PwDs;
- Provide training and raise awareness for PwDs regarding their rights and responsibilities, working together to hold service providers accountable.

### **Role of Development Partners**

- Provide technical and financial support to strategy and programme development promoting the inclusion of PwDs in society in line with identified national policy and sector priorities.

### **Media**

- Play a role in sharing this policy and its content with the public (i.e., raising public awareness) through different broadcasting programmes, talks, and shows on topics such as disability, causes, rights of PwDs, laws protecting them, and their participation in the development of the country.

### **Community**

- Promote awareness and avoid stigma and discrimination among families having PwDs through community-based Rehabilitation (CBR).

### **Persons with Disabilities**

As the main beneficiaries of this policy and rights-holders, PwDs are an essential part of the successful implementation of this policy in the following ways:

- Engage in participatory planning processes to identify needs of PwDs and their families.
- Contribute to the improvement of services and hold accountable service providers through constructive dialogue and engagement with service review delivery mechanisms.
- Promote positive values and attitudes (dependency mind-set) related to self-reliance, solidarity, and protection of the most vulnerable

## **5. FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS**

The National Policy of Persons with Disabilities will be fully budgeted in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN). This will include activities outlined in the associated five-year Strategic Plan. Disability Inclusion is a crosscutting issue and all respective stakeholders including governments and non-governmental, bilateral, and multilateral agencies will provide the necessary budget.

## **6. ANTICIPATED RISKS AND MITIGATION PLAN**

The following risks are anticipated and have been designated corresponding mitigation strategy/plans:

**Risk:** Non-implementation of policy

**Mitigation Plan:** Effective accountability mechanisms will be established for each sector or institutions concerned with the implementation of this policy;

**Risk:** Cost of proposed activities, interventions, and programs leading to cutbacks of current services and programs

**Mitigation Plan:** Effective budgetary control, compliance, and regular monitoring of activities and expenditures to address unanticipated risks and outcomes.

**Risk:** Inter-sectoral coordination and PwDs inclusion

**Mitigation Plan:** As this is a crosscutting policy, the Coordination of this policy will be overseen by the Disability Coordination Forum that brings together Government Institutions, Civil Society Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, Media, Private Sector. Communication and awareness raising regarding the rights of PwDs are core activities of the policy implementation. The policy emphasizes engagement of people, not only those with disabilities, but also those without disabilities.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

### **7.1. Legal implications**

The implementation of this policy will have an immediate implication on legal framework.

### **7.2. Impact on business and the economy**

Implementation this policy is intended to support sustainable, equitable and inclusive economic development. The key transmission mechanisms for this are expected to include:

- a) Increased investment in productive activities among low-income households;
- b) Increased resilience to lifecycle and subsequently, increased wealth accumulation within and across generations;
- c) Increased demand for goods and services in poor communities due to increased purchasing power resulting from the expansion of social protection schemes and increased awareness of the rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- d) Reduced child stunting, malnutrition and, subsequently, improved health, cognitive development, and economic productivity;

- e) Increased access to skills training and other employment services among the most vulnerable persons with disabilities.
- f) Increased financial inclusion and savings among low-income households

### 7.3. Impact on equality, discrimination, unity and reconciliation

Strengthened disability inclusion in society and across all sectors in Rwanda directly contributes to reducing inequality and promoting the participation of all citizens in national development, key tenets for unity and reconciliation. In particular, this policy has been specifically designed to:

- a) Deliver on key obligations related to the non-discrimination based on disability as provided for in the Rwandan Constitution;
- b) Provide a tangible demonstration of Rwanda's commitment to equal opportunities, prosperity and wellbeing for all;
- c) Promote positive values of national and community solidarity;
- d) Support the development of human capacity at all stages of the lifecycle and promote the full participation of PwDs in Rwanda's national development.

## 8. Contribution of Policy to National Strategy for Transformation (NST1)

Table 1 outlines how key interventions and outcomes in this policy contribute to NST outcomes and priority areas within Economic, Social Transformation and Transformational Governance pillars.

Table 1: Contribution of National Policy of Persons with Disabilities to the NST1

NST Priority		Contribution of PwD's Policy
<b>Economic Transformation</b>	Priority 2: Accelerate sustainable urbanizations	The policy supports inclusive and accessible infrastructure and environments that contribute towards smart and green cities and towns.
	Priority 5: Increase domestic savings and position Rwanda as a hub for financial services	Through empowering and supporting PwDs to participate in local economies, the policy contributes towards broadening the base for domestic savings.
	Priority 6: Modernize and increase the productivity of agriculture	The policy promotes greater participation in Agriculture including leveraging memberships of cooperatives and DPOs to access resources and innovation to support enhanced productivity.
<b>Social Transformation</b>	Adopting a lifecycle approach, the Policy supports positive qualitative changes in all aspects of people's lives	
	Priority 1: Enhance graduation from poverty and promote resilience	The policy recognizes the reinforcing nature of disability and poverty and adopts several strategies that include directly addressing

		poverty and empowering individuals through education and training.
	Priority 3: Enhance demographic dividend through access to quality health for all	The policy promotes greater access to health care for PwDs and draws attentions to and addresses the need for strengthened human resource capacity in the health sector.
	Priority 4: Enhance demographic dividend through access to quality health for all	The policy promotes greater access to quality education by promoting inclusive education practices that contribute to overall education quality.
	Priority 5: Move towards a modern Rwandan Household	The policy promotes accessible infrastructure and environments and draws attention to the living conditions of historically excluded populations.
<b>Transformational Governance</b>	The policy recognizes the value of home-grown solutions and traditional values in addressing inclusion within society.	
	Priority 1: Reinforce Rwandan cultures and values	The policy identifies social exclusion of PwDs as a challenge to national unity and social coexistence. Among several solutions, harnessing local culture by working within existing traditional practices such as Umuganda and Abunzi is central to promoting greater social inclusion of PwDs.
	Priority 4: Strengthen Justice, Law and Order	The policy promotes an inclusive justice and legal system that enables PwDs to access legal and regulatory frameworks.
	Priority 5: Strengthen Capacity, Service Delivery, and Accountability of Public Institutions	The policy draws attention to and promotes strengthened capacity of service delivery institutions as a means to meeting the constitutional and human rights of PwDs.
	Priority 6: Increase Citizens' Participation and Engagement in Development	The policy promotes greater awareness of constitutional and human rights and supports citizens to claim those rights through greater engagement with public agencies.
<b>Cross-cutting</b>	Disability and Social Inclusion	The policy directly addresses disability and social inclusion by promoting their inclusion across all sectors.

## 9. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The implementation plan of this policy is made of four (4) years implementation plan comprises the key strategic objectives made of different interventions, all combined together to respond to the main objective, mission as well as to attain to objective of this policy.

Details of the outcomes, outputs and required actions for all outlined strategic objectives s are reflected in the implementation logical framework indicated in below table.

## A. Implementation Logical Framework

Policy related Indicators Matrix							
Outcomes	Output	Baseline (2015/16)	Indicator	Target			
				2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Strategic objective 1: Promote access to social security and income -support programs for vulnerable persons with Disabilities</b>							
<b>1.Social Protection</b>							
1. Increased access to social security and income-support programs for vulnerable persons with disabilities.	Expanded provision of regular and reliable direct income support to eligible PwDs.	25%	Percentage of eligible PwDs covered by social protection	100%	100%	100%	100%
		255	# of central and local government staff trained on rights and inclusion of PwDs	110	110	110	110

	Increased Public Works and/or EPW employment opportunities for PwDs.	5% VUP Public works participant households (HH) are headed by PwDs	% age of PwDs enrolled in Public Works programs and/or ePW	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Vulnerable PwDs supported with decent, affordable, and accessible shelters increased	see e-g. RDRC	Percentage of eligible PwDs with decent, affordable, and accessible shelters	10%	15%	35%	50%
<b>2.Infrastructure</b>							
<b>Strategic objective 2: Promote universal design standards and regulations supporting accessible and affordable infrastructure to PWDs.</b>							
1. Accessibility and affordability of infrastructure for PWDs ensured	Transport facilities to persons with disabilities in rural and urban areas accessed	National Transport Policy of 2012	1. National Transport Policy document revised and rendered inclusive	1	-	-	-
			Mainstreaming guidelines for persons with Disabilities developed	-	1	-	-



	Barrier free transport for persons with Disabilities ensured	0	Guidelines on public transport facilities for persons with Disability developed	1	-	-	-
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	% of public buildings and roads rendered accessible	Ministerial Order on Urban Planning and Building Regulations of 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	100% of public buildings and roads meeting accessibility standards	15% of public buildings. roads are accessible	30% of public buildings, roads are accessible	60% of public building, roads are accessible	75% of public buildings, roads are accessible
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### 3.Education sector

**Strategic objective 3: Improve enrolment, retention, and completion rates of 12YBE level for all categories of children with disabilities**

<b>1. Increased number of schools meeting standards of accessibility and reasonable accommodations</b>	Increased number of schools meet standards of accessibility and reasonable accommodation for all categories of the special educational needs (SEN) of learners with disabilities (LWDs).	0.90%	At least 10% of learners with disabilities (LWDs) enrolled each year, progress, and complete 12 years of schooling.	5%	10%	20%	30%	40%
	Increased number of basic education schools and higher learning institutions (HLI) have adapted teaching/learning resource provisions for LWDs.	5%	At least 10% of learners with disabilities (LWDs) enrolled each year, progress, and complete 12 years of schooling.	0	0	0	0	1

	Developed systems of identification, SEN assessment, and referral for educational and support services (rehabilitation and therapy) of LWDs in special and inclusive schools.	0%	Each Province and City of Kigali has at minimum an equipped center in an inclusive school of excellence with the ability to assess special needs and make referral services for LWDs .	1	1	1	1	1
	Increased parent/community awareness and responsibility towards the rights and participation in quality education for LWDs	5%	In each province and City of Kigali , an equipped center in an inclusive school of excellence will provide service information to the neighborhood, communities, and families of LWDs at sector Level	50	125	200	350	416

	Designated inclusive schools of excellence to promote good practices, awareness, and support neighborhood schools at every sector level.	0%	At least one fully equipped special school and inclusive school of excellence exists in each Districts able to accommodate a range of categories of LWDs.	6	6	6	6	6
	Increased expertise at all levels of educational, health, and support service provisions for LWDs.	5%	Expertise at all levels is increased from 5% to 50% within seven years.	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%

<b>4.Child protection</b>								
<b>Strategic objective 3: Promote child with Disability rights</b>								
Children with disabilities' rights ensured	Community knowledge on Child abuse, exploitation and violence against children with disabilities increased.	TBD	Number of awareness campaigns conducted on Child abuse, exploitation and violence against children with disabilities	1	1	1	1	
			Number of radio and TV talks shows broadcasted	1	1	1	1	
			Number of representative from media, RIB Officers, Police Officers, Prosecutors, Judges, Local Leaders, CSOS, RBOS trained on Child abuse, exploitation and violence against children with disabilities trained	100	250	400	450	
			Ministerial order regulating centres of CwDs document in place	1	-	-	-	
	Special centers for children with disabilities supported	43 centres are supported	Number of Special centers for children with disabilities supported	43	43	43	43	

	Parental knowledge, skills, responsive and caring of children with disabilities are increased.	TBD	Number of care givers and parents leaders trained on positive parenting at Sector level	30	65	200	416
Strengthened inclusion of children with disabilities in community, and home based Early Childhood Development (ECD) <sup>[1],[2]</sup>	Home and center based ECD centers assessed and section plans developed for disability inclusion.	Developed Minimum for alternative care	Standardized assessment tool developed	1	-	-	-
			Proportion of existing ECD and home-based centers assessed	1	-	-	1
			Developed action plan	-	1	-	1
	Increased capacity building for parents, ECD centers, and caregivers.		ECD training curriculum developed	1	-	-	-

			Proportion of ECD teacher training programs with inclusive ECD curriculum incorporated	-	1	-	-
	Centres of children with disabilities monitored		# of monitoring visits conducted per year	43	43	43	43

## 5. Employment

### Strategic objective 4: To increase the participation of persons with disabilities in employment and other sectors

1. Persons with disabilities have access to employment opportunities that accommodate their specific needs.	Skills for PwDs developed for employment and economic autonomy increased.		N° of PwDs trained in entrepreneurship	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
			N° of PwDs accessed to financial services to create their own jobs	100	250	500	600 1,000

<b>6.Agriculture</b>							
<b>Strategic objective 5: Establish various special needs of Persons with Disabilities for full participation in all agricultural programs and initiatives</b>							
1. Identified categories of beneficiaries and requirements of Persons with Disabilities in all agricultural programs and initiatives at every sector level	Different needs and requirements of PwDs participation in agriculture are established	0%	Assessment Tools for establishing the categories and needs of PwDs developed	1	1	1	1
	Specialized agricultural tools and equipment needed by PwDs made available in communities through extension services	0%	Adapted equipment in 416 sectors	50	200	250	270
1. Developed training and support programs for Persons with Disabilities	Agricultural extension workers are trained for each sector	0%	At least one existing agricultural extension workers are trained in each sector	50	200	250	270



	PwDs are trained in accessible agricultural skills	0%	40% PwDs are trained in accessible agricultural skills	0%	20%	40%	40%
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<b>7.Health</b>							
<b>Strategic objective 6: To strengthen early identification, diagnostic assessment, and intervention, prioritizing children with disabilities and mothers</b>							
Early detection and diagnosis protocols and guidelines for children developed and integrated in the health system.	1. Protocols and guidelines developed and approved 2. Training provided to Health Providers	N/A	# of protocols and guidelines developed	1	-	-	-
			# of health providers, CHWs, child development professionals trained at each Village	-	14,841	-	-
			#of community awareness event conducted	-	4	4	4
			#of surveys conducted	-	-	1	

<b>Strategic objective 8: To subsidize the provision of assistive devices and disability related health care services to PwDs</b>							
Equitable and affordable quality rehabilitative and health services for PwDs ensured	Quality and affordable assistive devices are fully covered through Health Insurance.	list of assistive devices to be exempted available	#of assistive devices provided to PwDs	21,597	21,597	21,598	21,598
	Disability related health care services covered by Health Insurance.	13 Orthopedic Workshops available	# of PWDs offered rehabilitation services	4,475	4,475	4,475	4,475

<b>9.Sport and Culture</b>							
<b>Strategic objective 8: Promote social and cultural activities among Persons with Disabilities</b>							
Social and culture activities promoted among Persons with Disabilities	National, regional, international sport and cultural activities for PWD organised	National, regional sport and cultural activities for PWD organised	# of national, regional, international sport and cultural activities for PWD organized	4	4	4	4
	Capacity building for professional coaches provided		# of coaches trained in disability based sports	10	15	20	20
	New and existing sporting, recreational, and cultural facilities are accessible		# of new and renovated sporting, recreational, and cultural facilities	10	15	15	20
			#of competitions organized	4	4	4	4
			Sign language Dictionary developed and updated		1	-	-

<b>9. Information, Communication and Technology</b>							
Strategic objective 09: Promote Digital Disability Inclusion							
Digital Disability needs mainstreamed	A digital Disability Promotion Strategy Developed	Draft disability promotion strategy available.	No. of disability promotion & strategies developed	Strategy Development and approval	Strategy implementation	Strategy Implementation	Strategy Implementation and Evaluation
	Innovative Technology Assistive devices and solutions Developed	5 innovative and intelligent prototype solutions available	Percentage of PwD students in special schools equipped with smart devices (Computers & Smartphone) for learning purpose	Planning & developing implementation framework	30%	60%	100%
			No. of innovative technology solutions available on market for PwD's	Develop design context framework	15	15	10
	Regulations Governing ICT accessibility for PwDs in Rwanda	Draft Regulations Governing ICT accessibility for PwDs in Rwanda	No. of regulations Governing ICT accessibility for PwDs in Rwanda	Regulation development and approval	Regulation enforcement	Regulation enforcement	Regulation enforcement and Evaluation
	PwDs trained in digital literacy and other science, technology and innovations skills	-	No. of PwDs trained in digital literacy	605	605	605	605
			No. of technology innovators trained in innovations for digital disability related solutions	50	50	50	50

<b>10.Cross Cutting</b>							
<b>Strategic objective 10. Strengthen disability coordination and inclusion across all sectors</b>							
1. Strengthened institutional capacity for oversight and coordination of disability interventions across all sectors	Mandate of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) revised	Current NCPD mandate and strategic plan.	Revised NCPD Mandate document	-	1	-	-
	Disability mainstreaming guidelines across all sectors developed		A comprehensive mainstreaming guideline available	1	1	-	-

	National Disability Law, related presidential and ministerial orders reviewed in line with United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)		National Disability Law, related presidential and ministerial orders reviewed	1	-	-	
<b>Strategic objective: 11 Monitor and Evaluate all interventions of persons with disabilities</b>							
Systems for Monitoring and evaluation of all interventions of persons with disabilities Strengthened	Disability MIS systems developed	Disability monitoring Tracking system	Disability MIS systems developed		1	-	-
			# of training sessions organized	-	1	1	1
			#of reports on interventions of Persons with Disabilities produced	4	4	4	4

Strengthened capacity for evidence based policy and programing on disability.			# of survey conducted	1	-	1	-
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## B. Key interventions related to policy actions

Activities	Responsible institutions	Budget				
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
1. Social Protection						
Strategic objective 1: Promote access to social security and income -support programs for vulnerable persons with Disabilities						
1. Provide regular and reliable direct income support to eligible PwDs.	MINALOC, LODA, RDRC, DPs	36,225,000	36,225,000	36,225,000	36,225,000	144,900,000
2.Develop training modules on rights and inclusion of PwDs. Conduct Training of trainers (ToT) dedicated to central and local government Social Affairs staff on rights and inclusion of PwDs.	MINALOC Districts,	56,250,000	56,250,000	56,250,000	56,250,000	225,000,000
3. Identify and enroll eligible individuals and households into ePWs	MINALOC, RHA, MININFRA, MINAGRI, LODA	26,250,000	26,250,000	26,250,000	26,250,000	105,000,000
4. Provide affordable and accessible shelter to PwDs.	MINALOC, RHA	443,000,000	443,000,000	515,000,000	515,000,000	1,916,000,000
		561,725,000	561,725,000	633,725,000	633,725,000	2,390,900,000

<b>2.Infrastructure</b>						
<b>Strategic objective 2: Promote universal design standards and regulations supporting accessible and affordable infrastructure to PWDs.</b>						
1. Revise Transport Policy of 2012 and its Implementation Plan.	<b>MININFRA,</b> RHA, RTDA, RCAA, NCPD, MINALOC, RWANDAIR	-	7,000,000	-	-	7,000,000
2. Develop and resource mainstreaming guidelines for PwDs.	<b>MINFRA,</b> RHA, RTDA, MINALOC	-	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000
3.Develop guidelines on public transport facilities for persons with Disability	<b>MININFRA,</b> RURA, MINALOC, PSF	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,200,000	2,500,000	8,200,000
4.Monitor the compliance with public transport guidelines	RURA, MINALOC, PSF	-	2,500,000			2,500,000
5. Develop monitoring and supervision tools for infrastructure generally.	<b>MININFRA,</b> MINALOC, RHA	3,000,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,700,000	13,700,000
6. Monitor the compliance with Urban Planning and Building Regulations	RHA, NCPD, CoK, Districts	-	2,500,000	-	2,500,000	5,000,000
		4,500,000	18,500,000	5,700,000	8,700,000	37,400,000
<b>3.Education sector</b>						
<b>Strategic objective 3: Improve enrolment, retention, and completion rates of 12YBE level for all categories of children with disabilities</b>						
1. Define categories of disability-related Special Educational Needs (SEN)	<b>MINEDUC,</b> REB/WDA	800,000,000	700,000,000	810,000,000	810,000,000	<b>3,120,000,000</b>

2. Set standards and guidelines for special and inclusive schools	<b>MINEDUC, REB/WDA</b>	70,000,000	25,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	<b>135,000,000</b>
3. Empower local authorities/communities and civil society groups to support the development of reasonable accommodation standards in special and inclusive schools	<b>MINALOC, and concerned civil society organisations</b>	15,000,000	12,000,000	10,000,000	8,000,000	<b>45,000,000</b>
4. Establish and equip resource rooms/centers in special and inclusive schools as well as HLI.	<b>MINEDUC</b>	970,000,000	725,000,000	1,810,000,000	910,000,000	<b>4,415,000,000</b>
5. Train teachers on the use of adapted technologies and development of local education resources. 3. Recruit and train support service providers	<b>(REB/WDA), MINALOC, and concerned civil society organisations</b>	25,000,000	40,000,000	45,000,000	25,000,000	<b>135,000,000</b>
6. Integrate procedures for SEN assessment, referral, and support into the educational system.	<b>MINEDUC, REB/WDA</b>	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000	<b>1,200,000,000</b>
7. Develop and standardize tools for SEN identification, assessment, and referrals.	<b>REB/WDA MINALOC, and concerned civil society organisations</b>	-	10,000,000	-		
8. Establish schools of excellence	<b>MINEDUC ,MINALOC, REB/WDA, and concerned civil society organisations</b>	1,680,000,000	925,000,000	570,000,000	970,000,000	<b>4,145,000,000</b>

9. Identify inclusive schools of excellence and put in place accommodation and support provisions with stratified support mechanisms from provincial, district, and sector levels.	<b>MINEDUC</b> , <b>MINALOC</b> , <b>REB/WDA</b> , and concerned civil society organisations	1,270,000,000	1,225,000,000	890,000,000	998,900,000	<b>4,383,900,000</b>
10. Establish at least one new special school in sectors where they are needed.	<b>MINEDUC</b> , <b>MINALOC</b> , <b>REB/WDA</b> , and concerned civil society organisations	1,275,000,000	1,425,000,000	1,110,000,000	990,000,000	<b>4,800,000,000</b>
12. Establish special units in inclusive schools of excellence.	<b>MINEDUC</b> , <b>MINALOC</b> , <b>REB/WDA</b> , and concerned civil society organisations	-	20,000,000	35,000,000	-	<b>55,000,000</b>
13. Establish tools and criteria for data disaggregation and SEN categorization. 2.Establish disaggregated data of LWDs in all communities and schools every year.	<b>MINEDUC</b> , <b>MINALOC</b> , <b>REB/WDA</b> , and concerned civil society organisations	2,300,000	1,800,000	1,200,000	-	<b>5,300,000</b>
14. Train community outreach and research at the School of Inclusive & Special Needs Education in UR CE, primary and special schools and rehabilitation and therapy workers.	<b>MINEDUC</b> , <b>MINALOC</b> , <b>REB/WDA</b> , and concerned civil society organisations	1,170,000,000	925,000,000	870,000,000	970,000,000	<b>3,935,000,000</b>
		7,577,300,000	6,333,800,000	6,471,200,000	6,001,900,000	26,374,200,000

<b>4.Child protection</b>						
<b>Strategic objective 4: Promote child with Disability rights</b>						
1.Conduct awareness campaign on Child abuse, exploitation and violence against children with disabilities	<b>MIGEPROF</b> <b>,MINALOC,/NC</b> <b>C,</b> <b>NCPDDISTRIC</b> <b>TS, Partners</b>	<b>75,000,000</b>	75,000,000	75,000,000	75,000,000	300,000,000
2. Produce and broadcast TV & Radio pre-recorded & live talk shows, presenter mentions and spots to fight Child abuse, exploitation and violence against children with disabilities	<b>MIGEPROFMI</b> <b>NALOC,NCC,</b> <b>DISTRICTS,</b> <b>Partners</b>	10,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	25,000,000
3.Train of media, CSOs, RBOs, local leaders on Child abuse, exploitation and violence against children with disabilities.	<b>MINALOC,</b> <b>NCPDMIGEPR</b> <b>OF/NCC,</b> <b>Partners</b>	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	250,000	75,250,000
4. Develop and disseminate the ministerial order regulating centres of children with disabilities	<b>MINALOC,</b> <b>NCPDMIGEPR</b> <b>OF/NCC,</b> <b>Partners</b>	-	10,000,000	-	-	10,000,000
5. Provide Financial support to centres of CWDs	<b>MIGEPROF</b> <b>/NCC,MINECO</b> <b>FIN ,MINALOC</b>	268,750,000	268,750,000	268,750,000	268,750,000	1,075,000,000
6.Train care givers and parents leaders on positive parenting	<b>MIGEPROF/N</b> <b>CC,MINALOC/</b> <b>NCPD</b>	53,745,000	53,745,000	53,745,000	53,745,000	214,980,000
7. Develop standardized assessment tool to measure disability inclusion.	<b>MIGEPROF/N</b> <b>CCMINALOC/N</b> <b>CPD</b>	5,000,000	-	-	-	5,000,000

8. Assess ECD centers using the standardized tool to identify inclusion compliance.	<b>MIGEPROF/NCC, MINALOC</b>	18,257,400	-	-	18,257,400	36,514,800
9. Develop action plans to address barriers to inclusion.	<b>MIGEPROF/NCC, MINALOC</b>	-	2,500,000	-	-	2,500,000
10. Develop inclusive ECD training curriculum for ECD teachers.	<b>MIGEPROF, MINEDUC, MINALOC</b>	5,000,000	-	-	-	5,000,000
11. Integrate inclusive ECD curriculum within ECD teacher training programs, including those for pre-primary teachers and ECD caregivers.	<b>MIGEPROF, MINEDUC, MINALOC</b>	-	2,500,000	-	-	2,500,000
12. Conduct monitoring visits to centres of children with disabilities	<b>MINALOC, MIGEPROF, NCPD, NCC, DISTRICTS</b>	45,643,500	45,643,500	45,643,500	45,643,500	182,574,000
		506,395,900	488,138,500	473,138,500	466,645,900	1,934,318,800
<b>5. Employment</b>						
<b>Strategic objective 5: To increase the participation of persons with disabilities in employment and other sectors</b>						
1. Conduct identification of PwDs to be trained in entrepreneurship by Districts	<b>NCPD, MINALOC, RDB, BDF, MIFOTRA, PROVINCES, DISTRICTS</b>	27,500,000	27,500,000	27,500,000	27,500,000	110,000,000
2. Mobilize financial institutions to provide start up capital incentives to the trained PwDs	<b>NCPD, MINALOC, RDB, BDF, MIFOTRA, PROVINCES, DISTRICTS</b>	281,250,000	281,250,000	281,250,000	281,250,000	1,125,000,000

		308,750,000	308,750,000	308,750,000	308,750,000	1,235,000,000
<b>6.Agriculture</b>						
<b>Strategic objective 6: Establish various special needs of Persons with Disabilities for full participation in all agricultural programs and initiatives</b>						
1. Develop assessment tools 2. Conduct assessment of beneficiaries and their needs in order to participate in agriculture	<b>MINALOC, MINAGRI/RAB, NCPD, Districts</b>	25,000,000	15,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	60,000,000
Procure adapted tools for PWDs	<b>MINAGRI, MINALOC, NCPD, District</b>	338,500,000	338,500,000	338,500,000	338,500,000	1,354,000,000
1. Develop training materials 2. Identify trainees 3. Identify trainers	<b>MINAGRI, RAB, NCPD, MINALOC, Districts</b>	43,750,000	43,750,000	43,750,000	43,750,000	175,000,000
1. Develop training modules 2. Deliver trainings	<b>MINAGRI,</b>	43,750,000	43,750,000	43,750,000	43,750,000	175,000,000
		451,000,000	441,000,000	436,000,000	436,000,000	1,764,000,000
<b>7.Health</b>						
<b>Strategic objective 7: To strengthen early identification, diagnostic assessment, and intervention, prioritizing children with disabilities and mothers</b>						
1. Develop detection protocols and guidelines for all types of disabilities in their diversity	<b>MINISANTE, RBCNECDP, MINALOC</b>	30,704,150	-	-	-	30,704,150
2. Train service providers on early detection protocols and guidelines	<b>MINISANTE, RBCNECDP, MINALOC</b>	-	150,000,000		100,000,000	150,000,000

3.Design and undertake national community awareness on early detection and reporting of disabilities among children ( through TV and Radio shows, umuganda,IDPD ect)	<b>MINISANTE, RBCNECDP,MINALOC</b>	40,000,000	55,000,000	45,000,000	40,000,000	180,000,000
4.Conduct a national survey to determine the prevalence of common early childhood disabilities in the postnatal period to age six.	<b>MINISANTE,RBC,NISR,NECDP,MINALOC</b>	-	75,000,000	-	-	75,000,000
		<b>70,704,150</b>	<b>280,000,000</b>	<b>45,000,000</b>	<b>140,000,000</b>	<b>435,704,150</b>
<b>Strategic objective 8: To subsidise the provision of assistive devices and disability related health care services to PwDs</b>						
1.Procure and distribute assistive devices through MPPD (wheel chairs,Special sitting devices,hearing and listening assistive devices, orthosis and prothesis, working frames	<b>MINISANTE, RBC,MINECOFIN, NCPD,MINALOC</b>	671,335,000	671,335,000	671,335,000	671,335,000	2,685,340,000
2.Provide rehabilitation services to PWDs	<b>MINISANTE, RBC,MINECOFIN, NCPD,MINALOC</b>	435,162,000	435,162,000	435,162,000	435,165,490	1,740,651,490
		1,106,497,000	1,106,497,000	1,106,497,000	1,106,500,490	4,425,991,490
<b>8.Sport and Culture</b>						
<b>Strategic objective 9: Promote social and cultural activities among Persons with Disabilities</b>						
1.Organize national, regional, international sport and cultural activities for	<b>MINSPOC,MINALOC/NCPD</b>	25,500,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	34,500,000	130,000,000



PWDs/National and international Paralympic						
2. Conduct specific training sessions of professionals on sport and cultural for PWDs	<b>MINSPOC, MINALOC/NCPD</b>	15,000,000	12,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	77,000,000
3. Renovate and create accessible sporting, recreational, and cultural facilities.	<b>MINSPOC, MINALOC/NCPD</b>	35,000,000	70,000,000	105,000,000	105,000,000	315,000,000
4. Organize regional and international competition	<b>MINSPOC, MINALOC/NCPD</b>	13,750,000	13,750,000	13,750,000	13,750,000	55,000,000
5. Support in developing sign language Disctionnary	<b>NCPD, MINALOC, MINISPOC, DPOS</b>	65,000,000	-	-	-	65,000,000
		154,250,000	130,750,000	178,750,000	178,250,000	642,000,000
<b>10. Information, Communication and Technology</b>						
<b>Strategic objective 10: Promote inclusive technology to PWDS</b>						
1. Develop the digital Disability Promotion Strategy and monitor the implementation	<b>MINICT, MINALOC, RISA, NCPD</b>	-	100,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000
2. Developed Innovative Technology Assistive devices and solutions (.Procure disability friendly ( adaptive) computers and other accessible learning materials and tools suited to the needs of learners with disabilities)	<b>MINICT, MINALOC, MINEDUC, REB, RISA, NCPD</b>	-	1,000,000,000	1,000,000,000	1,000,000,000	1,000,000,000
3. Regulations Governing ICT accessibility for PwDs in Rwanda	<b>RURA, MINICT, MINALOC, RISA, NCPD, RURA</b>	-	-	-	-	100,000,000

4 PwDs trained in digital literacy and other science, technology and innovations skills	<b>MINICT,MINALOC,MINEDUC RISA, NCPD</b>	-	500,000,000	500,000,000	500,000,000	500,000,000
			<b>1600,000,000</b>	<b>1800,000,000</b>	<b>1800,000,000</b>	<b>1900,000,000</b>
<b>10.Crosscutting</b>						
<b>Strategic objective 11. Strengthen disability coordination and inclusion across all sectors</b>						
1. Review NCPD mandate to strengthen accountability, monitoring and awareness to all services providers.	<b>MINALOC,NC PD, MIFOTRA , MINECOFIN</b>	-	3,500,000	-	-	<b>3,500,000</b>
2.Develop Disability mainstreaming guidelines across all sectors	<b>MINALOC,NC PD, MININFRA, MINAGRI, MINISANTE, MINEDUC, MINECOFIN , MIFOTRA, MINISPOC, MITEC</b>	-	10,000,000	-	-	<b>10,000,000</b>
3. Review National Disability Law, related presidential and ministerial order	<b>MINALOC,NC PD, MINECOFIN</b>	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	<b>1,000,000</b>
4. Initiate Disability budget statement	<b>MINALOC,NC PD, MINECOFIN</b>	-	1,000,000	-	-	<b>1,000,000</b>
5. Raise Awareness through sector working groups on National Disability Law, related presidential and ministerial order	<b>MINALOC,NC PD, MINECOFIN</b>	1,000,000	-	-	-	-
		<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>14,500,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>15,500,000</b>

<b>Strategic objective : 12 Monitor and Evaluate all interventions of persons with disabilities</b>						
1.Develop and maintain disability MIS system	<b>NCPD</b> ,MINALOC, RISA, OTHER stakeholders	-	500,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
2.Organize and conduct training of the staff on usage of Disability MIS	<b>NCPD</b> ,MINALOC, DISTRICTS, OTHER stakeholders	10,000,000	20,000,000	35,000,000	20,000,000	85,000,000
3.Produce quarterly report on implementation progress	<b>NCPD</b> , Districts and other stakeholders	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	8,000,000
4. Conduct a national survey on living conditions of Persons with Disability using Washington Group Question	<b>MINALOC</b> , NCPD, NISR	-	-	100,000,000	-	100,000,000
		<b>31,500,000</b>	<b>47,000,000</b>	<b>167,000,000</b>	<b>57,500,000</b>	<b>303,000,000</b>
	<b>Gross Total</b>					

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