

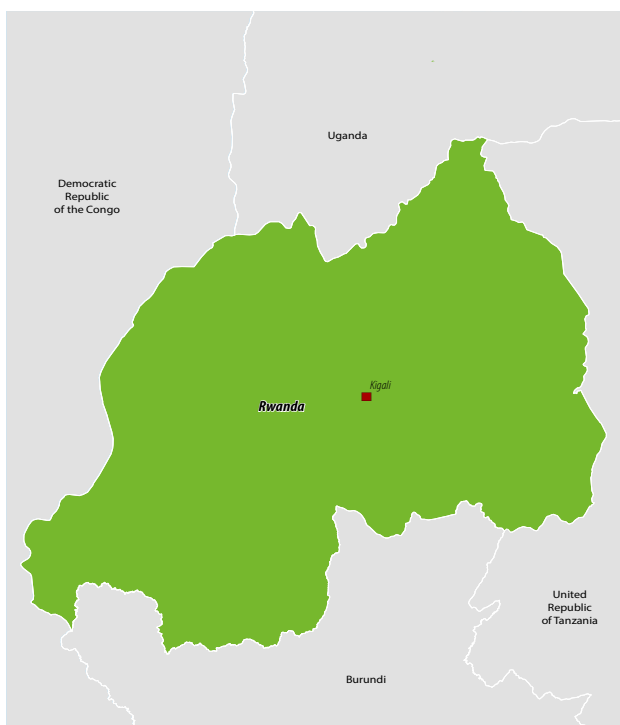


Dominique Bizimana is a 41-year-old Rwandan athlete, whose left leg was amputated after he stepped on a mine in 1992.

Rwanda ratified the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD) in 2008. The Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC), which is under the MOH, has an Injuries and Disabilities Unit that carries out activities for persons with disabilities. The National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) focuses on advocacy efforts and the promotion of social inclusion of persons with disabilities through sports.

Though most people in Rwanda have health insurance, some persons with disabilities still cannot afford physical rehabilitation services. Efforts to strengthen Rwanda's physical rehabilitation sector are hindered by a lack of trained local staff.

The [University of Rwanda's College of Medicine and Health Sciences](#) (UR-CMHS) approached us in 2013 for supporting the Prosthetist & Orthotist department. In the last quarter of 2016, we began to work with the national referral hospital, the Center Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali (CHUK), which provides physical rehabilitation services and hosts UR-CMHS students for on-the-job training and clinical placements.



MOVEABILITY'S PARTNERS IN RWANDA*

- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali (CHUK), Kigali
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- [University of Rwanda's College of Medicine and Health Sciences](#) (UR-CMHS), Kigali

*Presented in alphabetical order

OUR APPROACH

MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION

After the civil war, Rwanda's economy struggled, but it has recently been enjoying economic growth. The government is now capable of improving its health-care system and the social inclusion of people with disabilities. Thanks to our experience in the field of physical rehabilitation and our contacts, we are well-positioned to work with the government on these matters.

We have developed strong and fruitful collaboration with different stakeholders. Our partnerships with the UR-CMHS and the CHUK have contributed to great progress in terms of access to education for students in the rehabilitation sector.

A physical rehabilitation entity has been created at the Ministry of Health, and is in charge of rehabilitation services and chairs the platform. Strong collaboration has also been established with the National Paralympic Committee, in the domain of fostering social inclusion for persons with disabilities through sports.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

Despite the existence of social health insurance, which 78% of the population possesses, access to rehabilitation services and assistive devices remains too expensive for most people with disabilities. Our approach thus focuses on the integration of rehabilitation into the health system; the choice of technology ensuring affordable rehabilitation services is also aligned with national priorities.

A COMMITTED SPORTSMAN AND DISABILITY ACTIVIST

Dominique Bizimana, a disabled Rwandan volleyball player, dedicated his life to sports and to other people. During the civil war, he stepped on a mine, and his left leg was amputated in 1992, when he was only 16 years old. He was fitted with a prosthesis in 1994.

He has been passionate about sports since his childhood and was very active before he was injured during the war. *"I remember as a kid that I dreamt of being an athlete. After the war I had lost all my dreams!"* he said.

Little by little, with the love and support of his family and friends, he regained trust and hope. When he was fitted with a prosthesis, he started to play sports again. Nothing could stop him anymore: he played soccer, volleyball, handball, karate and powerlifting. He excelled in all his sports activities.

Today, at 41 years old, Dominique Bizimana has a successful sporting career behind him as a player of sitting volleyball, and as the captain and coach of his team. He is a recognized athlete in Rwanda as well as in neighbouring countries. He brought back a bronze medal from the Paralympic Games in Athens.

In 2012 he and his teammates qualified for the sitting volleyball competition at the London Paralympic games. He was also appointed by the World Organisation Volleyball for Disabled (WOVD) as the special advisor in charge of sitting volleyball for Africa.

His associative commitment is no less impressive: former President of the National Paralympic Committee Rwanda, Ottobock Ambassador, current President of the East African Paralympic Committee, and President of National Union of People with Disability in Rwanda (NUDOR).

Bizimana strongly believes that sports for persons with disabilities is an inexpensive and effective means to foster positive health, well-being and social inclusion. *"It is an honour for me and my country to have such a huge impact on sports for persons with disabilities. I think it's the obstacles and challenges that keep us growing,"* he concludes.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2016

NATIONAL PLAN

We are in contact with various government agencies and non-governmental organizations working for people with disabilities in Rwanda, including a technical working group chaired by the MOH, which will play the role of a national platform for physical rehabilitation.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The UR-CMHS has started to integrate e-learning in its teaching methods. With our help, they've created a curricula and uploaded content to its Moodle-based learning platform. The P&O training is recognized at CAT II level by [ISPO](#).

ACCESS TO SERVICES

We facilitated the participation of Rwandan athletes and regional synergies in an event organized in Tanzania by the [Tanzania Paralympic Committee](#) to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3).



Dominique Bizimana, on the right of the picture, is a Rwandan recognized and medallist sitting volleyball player



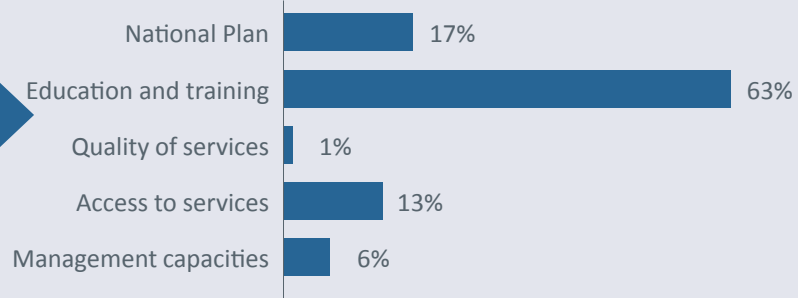
BUDGET 2018

CHF 466,567

BUDGET 2016–2018

CHF 1,073,766

RESOURCE ALLOCATION



PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2018

NATIONAL PLAN

- > Support the platform’s activities, including prioritizing topics to be explored, such as the analysis of existing rehabilitation systems; the development of national plans, the allocation of resources for physical rehabilitation services; the possible inclusion of these services in Universal Health Coverage; and the gathering of disability data in the national statistics office
- > Support the national associations of physiotherapists and of prosthetists/orthotists in advocating for appropriate career and professional development within the health systems

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- > Support UR-CMHS’s efforts to retain its accreditation from the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO), and to promote its online modules for continuing professional development
- > Participate in the renovation of CHUK’s machine room and gait training area; donate materials for UR-CMHS students undertaking clinical placements at the CHUK
- > Help organize prosthetics and orthotics training sessions at UR-CMHS and at [Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania](#) (CCBRT) for Rwandan professionals
- > Organize training sessions on patient-satisfaction surveys and technical assessments for CHUK and NCPD

QUALITY OF SERVICES

- > Conduct a workshop for CHUK and UR-CMHS rehabilitation professionals on standards for physiotherapy, and on taking a multidisciplinary approach

ACCESS TO SERVICES

- > Discuss potential areas of collaboration with the [Rwandan Red Cross](#), and help the National Paralympic Committee to organize an event to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3); facilitate the involvement of both organizations in the national platform for physical rehabilitation (identification and referral mechanisms, raising awareness of disability-related matters, etc.)
- > Provide the CHUK with raw materials and components to produce assistive devices

MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES

- > Help UR-CMHS and the CHUK complete the Essential Management Package’s leadership modules and evaluate their systems using the toolkit