Rwanda ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2008. The Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), which is under the Ministry of Health (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 are covered by a health insurance, a number of 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 (URCMHS) approached MoveAbility in 2013 and requested support of the Prosthetist & Orthotist department. In the last quarter of 2016, we began to work with the national referral hospital, the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali (CHUK), which provides physical rehabilitation services and hosts UR-CMHS students for on-the-job training and clinical placements.

**KEY FACTS & FIGURES - 2018**

| POPULATION | 12,208,000¹ |
| PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES | 446,453² |
| CAUSE OF DISABILITIES (MOBILITY, SELF-CARE, VISION) | Stroke; cerebral palsy; infectious diseases (polio, leprosy); drug and alcohol use |
| UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (UNCRPD) | 2008³ |
| HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI) | 157/188 |

**MOVEABILITY’S PARTNERS IN RWANDA***

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

*Presented in alphabetical order

¹ Source: World Bank data
³ Source: [Ratification of the UNCRPD](http://www.un.org/disabilities/crpd/ratifications.html)
THE UNSTOPPABLE MAN

There are people, like Marcel Nkurayija, who cannot be stopped. Married and father of two, he is an active member of the community and a strong advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. Having suffered himself at school because of his disability, he set himself a goal to become a spokesperson.

He has been working for some time as a health and counseling officer at the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) in Kigali, Rwanda. The council is very advanced in terms of inclusion: out of the 22 persons working there, five are persons with disabilities. Marcel received the 2016-2017 best employee award. Very honored, he explains that he never let his disability get in the way and that he is always ready to defend the cause of the people left behind.

Marcel faced some challenges at school, as the society didn’t believe that he could study in a standard school, because of his disability. However, his parents helped him study in the same school as his peers and lived near the school to overcome his mobility challenges. Marcel explains, “It was a real struggle for me until I accepted my own disability as a fact. And when I decided to move forward, the disability never was a barrier for me again. Today, I have a bachelor’s degree in Clinical Psychology and I would like to complete a Master’s degree in Public Health.”

Outside his work, Marcel has always been very active in associations for persons with disabilities: he was the staff representative in the hospital where he started his career, then coordinator and president of associations of persons with disabilities in different districts of Rwanda. He has also facilitated several courses and workshops on working with persons with disabilities.

Together with MoveAbility Marcel is discussing a memorandum of understanding with the Rwandan government to improve the quality of rehabilitation services in the country, and he is delighted to share his knowledge and experience.

OUR APPROACH

STRENGTHENING MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION

MoveAbility will continue to strengthen its collaboration with various government agencies and non-governmental organizations working for persons with disabilities in Rwanda. This includes maintaining our partnerships with the URCMHS and the CHUK to broaden access to education for students in the physical rehabilitation sector. We will work with a technical working group chaired by the Ministry of Health and in charge of a national platform for physical rehabilitation. To support the social inclusion of persons with disabilities through sports, we will also continue our partnership with the National Paralympic Committee (NPC).

IMPROVING ACCESS TO REHABILITATION SERVICES

MoveAbility will continue to focus on integrating physical rehabilitation into the health system. We will ensure that affordable rehabilitation services are available to economically vulnerable persons with disabilities. We will support the national 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 and the possible inclusion of these services under universal health coverage.
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

NATIONAL PLAN
A new two-year framework agreement that MoveAbility proposed to the MOH is currently under review. The framework calls for the establishment of a national platform composed of members from the rehabilitation sector, and other stakeholders such as the Disabled Peoples’ Organizations (DPOs), academia and professional associations.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MoveAbility worked with Ottobock1 to renovate and equip the physical rehabilitation facilities in URCMHS. The renovation is part of a recommendation made by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) aimed at ensuring the college maintains its international accreditation. We ordered raw materials and other supplies for the university, to facilitate practical training sessions and clinical placements.

MoveAbility supported CHUK in carrying out renovations to improve the working environment for students during their field placements.

QUALITY OF SERVICES
With MoveAbility’s assistance, physiotherapists, prosthetists and orthotists strengthened their skills during practical training sessions in, for example, taking a multidisciplinary approach to the management of patients with amputations.

ACCESS TO SERVICES
To support the social inclusion of persons with disabilities through sports, we donated a dozen multi-sport wheelchairs to the NPC. We also provided CHUK with materials to use for the provision of services to persons with disabilities.

BENEFICIARY STATISTICS 2018

PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED SERVICES FROM OUR PARTNERS2

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>163</th>
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<td>2018³</td>
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BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED SERVICES

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<tr>
<td>2018³</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
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Assistive devices: Prostheses: 26, Orthoses: 93, Crutches: 93

1 Ottobock is a german manufacturer for assistive devices: www.ottobock.com/en
2 Services include: prosthetics and orthotics, physiotherapy, other rehabilitation services and consultations.
3 The final beneficiaries data as reported by the partners in the field.
4 As reported in October 2018, extrapolated to year end.
OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED IMPACT FOR 2019-2021

By the end of the reporting period covered by this document, in 2021, we aim to have contributed to the following objectives:

**NATIONAL PLAN**
- The national platform chaired by the MOH and composed of members of the rehabilitation sector, and other pertinent stakeholders promotes and manages the rehabilitation sector and its activities in the country.
- The national authorities have adopted a plan of action with appropriate budget and human resources allocated for improving the rehabilitation sector by 2021.
- A national database with statistics on rehabilitation services and needs are published and analyzed by the national authorities.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
- Physical rehabilitation professionals hone their skills and further their education, and students build on their knowledge of physical rehabilitation services.
- Schools for physical rehabilitation use innovative and updated teaching approaches, attract students from overseas and receive accreditation from national authorities and international organizations.
- The training facilities of University of Rwanda’s College of Medicine and Health Sciences (UR-CMHS) accommodate prosthetic trainees following the renovation of its campus.

**QUALITY OF SERVICES**
- The Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali (CHUK) provides quality services to persons with disabilities, establishing itself as a model service provider; it is evaluated based on client satisfaction data obtained from interviews and group discussions.
- Through quality assessment tools, physical rehabilitation providers are evaluated and key training gaps are identified by 2019. They are able to address these gaps with appropriate technical and clinical support.

**ACCESS TO SERVICES**
- Through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, vulnerable persons with disabilities have access to physical rehabilitation services and receive financial support from MoveAbility.
- Persons with disabilities are able to participate in sports and recreational activities developed by the National Paralympic Committee, in coordination with MoveAbility.

**MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES**
- The CHUK and National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) staff improve their ability to manage rehabilitation centres through training on the Essential Management Package (EMP).
- Staff from MoveAbility-supported centers and schools are able to attend international conferences.

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1 The budget is indicative and is subject to income received.