



Umuryango Nyarwanda w'Abagore Bafite Ubumuga (UNABU)



We are a diverse group of women women with disabilities for women with disabilities in Rwanda

UNABU is a non-governmental organization standing for Umuryango Nyarwandaw'Abagore Bafite Ubumuga and translated in English as the Rwandan Organization of Women with disabilities. It was established in 2004 by 14 women with various disabilities for women with disabilities. We are registered with Rwanda Governance Board under registration No 86/RGB/NGO/2017.

OUR VISION

UNABU remains the sole organization of women with various disabilities envisioning a society where women with all types of disabilities enjoy equal and equitable opportunities and actively participate in the country's development".

OUR MISSION

Our mission consists of promoting gender equality and removal of various barriers which prevent women with disabilities to fully participate in the society.

OUR VALUES

- Participation
- Transparency
- Rights based
- Sustainability
- Non-discrimination
- Good governance
- Excellence

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Our approaches

UNABU empowers women with disabilities to become agent of change, claims for their right and affirm their dignity as human being and women first through empowerment, partnerships building and advocacy towards an inclusive society embracing gender and disability intersection lens.

Community activism



UNABU's delivery channel is purposively built on community activism to empower girls and women with disabilities to bring change in their community through active participation, advocacy and engagement as agents of change. Through this community activism, UNABU select and train girls and women with disabilities as community mobilization volunteers.

Volunteers constitute a cornerstone for all UNABU's field implementation activities and sustainability. They train and mentor their fellow girls and women with disabilities on regular basis with the support of staff for coaching and linkage with other community structures and opportunities. At the same time volunteers involves and engage with local leaders, family members of girls and women with disabilities and other community support structures. UNABU counts 360 community volunteers girls and women with disabilities.

Building foundations



Girl and women with disabilities are subject to double discrimination because they are women first and secondary they have disabilities. Moreover, the vulnerability brought about by these intersectional identities puts women and girls with disabilities at greater risk of gender-based violence. They are both more likely to face sexual violence and abuse and less likely to access support before or following an attack.

Many of them show a lack of self-esteem linked with economic and psychosocial dependence. They are easy targets by perpetrators as result of persisting negative attitudes and beliefs on disability, communications, institutions and physical barriers limiting their access to available services and opportunities. This will not change until girls and women with disabilities' voices are heard and they stand to lead the change themselves thereby hold different stakeholders accountable.

For this to happen trained community volunteers girls and women with disabilities organize girls and women with disabilities into self advocacy groups. Self advocacy groups of girls and women with disabilities are organized at cells levels. They are safe spaces for girls and women with disabilities' trainings, mentorship and personal intimates' stories sharing and strategize to further advocacy initiatives.

Building Foundations focus on delivering basic training package for girls and women with disabilities. It focus on building understanding on disability and unpacking its attached discrimination practices, human rights, gender and gender based violence, leadership as well self advocacy skills to enhance their self confidence and agency. It is a twelve session's long period transforming personal beliefs, behaviors and practices of girls and women with disabilities.

Economic empowerment



Double discrimination faced by girls and women with disabilities limits their access to education, employment and other economic opportunities! Yet education opens news doors of employment UNABU also recognize it is hard and difficult to say no to violence while most of girls and women with disabilities socially and economically depending on the perpetrators. UNABU Economic empowerment solutions include but not limited to creation of job opportunities through financial literacy and business skills development, vocational skills development, seed capital and financial linkages and internship for graduates' young girls with disabilities

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including
everybody



Building partnerships

Convinced that prevention of GBV against girls and women with disabilities require comprehensive approach targeting a wide range of stakeholders. UNABU invest in creating supportive and protective surrounding environment for girls and women with disabilities to equitably access services. We train stakeholders in disability mainstreaming to facilitate access to a wide range of support services and opportunities for girls and women with disabilities everywhere they are. We initiate coalitions and take part of various networks and platforms for ensuring the voice of women with disabilities on intersecting factors is heard and their specific needs taken in to account into mainstream organizations



Raising awareness

Our journey starts by engaging with wider community. The double discrimination faced by girls and women with disabilities in their households and surrounding communities put them at higher risks of violence at both households, in the community and in public spaces. In most of cases and based on various assessment conducted by UNABU girls and women with disabilities fear to attend public spaces, and lack the opportunities to fully participate in the decision making because of persisting negatives attitudes and social norms.

In addressing all these challenges UNABU organize awareness sessions targeting community members and family members of girls and women with disabilities for creating enabling community, family and inspiring inclusive practices.



Advocacy

At national level, UNABU engage in advocacy for laws and policies change to better accommodate specific needs of girls and women with disabilities. Inclusive education, employment and justice as well gender based violence and Sexual reproductive health and rights services delivery are our main advocacy focus areas.

Some of policy issues UNABU advocates for include the institutionalized denial of legal capacities, unlimited guardianship and forced contraceptives use with attention to girls and women with mental disabilities. Accessibility of Isange One Stop Centers supporting victims of gender based violence is our priority. UNABU has recently joined other civil society organization to advocate for a gender and disability inclusive COVID 19 national economic recovery plan.

Young girls' leadership

UNABU target to prevent violence at early age before our own younger sisters become victims. On the other hand the future of UNABU vision and the disability movement in general depend on the engagement of empowered young voices. It is with this future perspective of generation equality that UNABU invest much more efforts in building young girls leadership as today and future change leaders.



In line with creating supportive and protective surrounding environment for girls and women with disabilities we have so far



Across 12 districts of Rwanda more than 13,000 girls and women with disabilities today organized into 360 self-advocacy groups have been impacted with their self confidence to get out their house hold and participation in community life and reporting gender based violence enhanced.

19,000 community members were reached out through awareness rising on disability, rights, GBV and role of the community in protecting girls and women with disabilities from gender based violence and general discrimination.

Trained 521 gender based violence and justices stakeholders and 742 SRHR& GBV nontraditional allies on disability mainstreaming with attention to intersection of gender and disability. They champion quality access to inclusive services delivery for girls and women with disabilities

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HAGURUKA

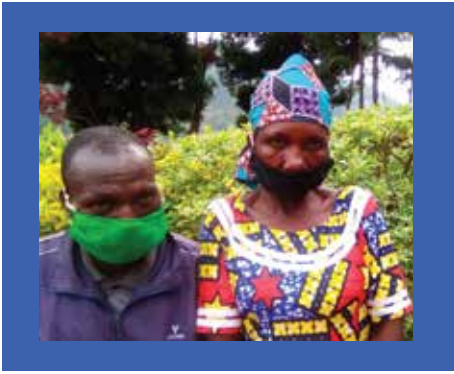


KVINNA KVINNA

TROCAIRE TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD



Virginia and Daniel 's right to having legally married family has not been fulfilled until their sector official attended the training of SGBV and SRHR stakeholders in their respective district.



Virginia has mental disability. She lost her parents at her very early age. Since that time her siblings deprived her from the family property. In all of those struggles she leaved alone in an unsafe house until she got a support from the sector office where she first met her today husband Daniel.

Daniel is a man with multiple disabilities too! He fall in love with Virginia at their first sight. Two weeks after they decided to leave together us a couple, Virginia went to the sector to ask for their couple to officially get married.

Unfortunately her proposal was rejected. All the time their couple claimed their right to officially get married. It was during the training of SGBV and SRHR stakeholders training organized by UNABU that one of Virginia and Daniel's sector staff realized that they have been preventing Virginia and Daniel from their right to legal marriage just as a result of charity model of disability. When participants were discussing about the various models of disabilities, sector official shared the story to underline that some time charity model is also important for the survival of people with disability. Daniel and Virginia were poor to afford daily living. They were supported by the sector through direct support. The sector decided not to officially let them get married just because that should result in negatively affecting their access to support. Not being married was an advantage for both to be supported individually so that they can have more to survive the whole month, sector staff reported. On the other side the sector staff thought that persons with severe disabilities like Daniel and Virginia cannot get married. It was quite difficult for sector to understand that they can decide for themselves because according to the law, marriage can only be accepted, when partners can decide for themselves. That was the almost their weekly excuse as every Thursday the sector holds civil marriage and Virginia and Daniel attend every Thursday hoping their proposal shall be accepted.

Totally convinced that getting marriage is human rights regardless the abilities, Daniel and Virginia's sector attendee to training managed to convince civil register and other sector staff that Daniel and Virginia have rights to official marriage. Therefore Daniel and Virginia were officially married. For Daniel and Virginia that day was highly memorable. Daniel said "I am a Christian, I bit drums in church. It was so shameful and I felt guilty to keep serving God with that kind of marriage, but I am happy that it has changed. Same as her lovely husband Virginia reported "I am very glad that they finally confirmed our marriage. It is our pleasure we are valued, we are now officially married. No matter what struggles we face as a couple such as a lot of discouragements"

