



Country card

**Rwanda**





# HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Rwanda program has 115 staff members and is part of the EAR Program.





# General data of the country

## a. General Data

DATA	Rwanda	Kenya	Belgium
Population	13.2	54.9	11.5
IHDI	0.38	0.44	0.85
Gender-related Development Index	0.945	0.937	0.974
Maternal Mortality	297	377	3
GINI Index	43.7	40.8	27.2
Population within UNHCR mandate	145.474	710.978	105.050
INFORM Index	4.5	6	1.7
Fragile State Index	83.7	88.2	31.9
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	8.9	10.1	100
Net official development assistance received (millions)	1191.1	3250.7	0

## b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	ratified in 2002
Convention on Cluster Munitions	ratified in 2011
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	ratified in 2008
Marrakesh Treaty on the inclusiveness of Persons with Visual Impairment (by accessing adapted books)	ratified in 2021



## **c. Geopolitical analysis**

### **Geographical/Demographical elements**

Small in size (26,338 square kilometers) and landlocked, Rwanda is hilly and fertile with a densely packed population of about 12.46 million people (2018). Rwanda is located in Central/Eastern Africa, and is bordered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west, Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the east, and Burundi to the south. The central and western part of the country is dominated by a portion of the Albertine Rift Mountains that give way to forests, savannahs, plains and swamps as you move eastward. Despite its proximity to the equator, Rwanda has a moderate climate.

### **Political context**

Rwanda's political, social and economic context was profoundly affected by the genocide against Tutsi in 1994. Ever since, Rwanda continued to enjoy political stability and general security, low levels of corruption with liberal legal frameworks in place

Regarding governance, Rwanda has a semi-presidential regime ruled by the Rwandese Patriotic Front, the massively recognized party. In 2018, for the first time, two opposition parties, the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda and Social Party Imberakuri, won two seats each in the parliament.

Two legislative chambers are put in place: the Senate and the Parliament. In these two organs, women fill 64% of the seats. In December 2015, an amendment to the constitution paved the way for the re-election of President Paul Kagame in August 2017, now in his third 7-year term in office.

Regarding public opinion, citizens' understanding of democracy has changed over time. A "consensual democracy" narrative has been promoted to connote power-sharing across different political parties as ensuring inclusivity due to the country's historical context of ethnic representation. The annual national survey conducted by Rwanda Governance Board on citizen satisfaction regarding the government and administration activities shows that most Rwandans were satisfied with how the executive was able to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus).

### **Socio-Economic elements**

Rwanda has undergone several development phases starting from the aftermath of the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, which focused much on recovery. The early 2000s where Vision 2020 was elaborated, and gave a blueprint for a new Rwanda embarking on economic development aspirations and laid a foundation for sustained growth through investing in human capital, developing basic infrastructure and expanding access to various services. With the Vision 2050, Rwanda now aspires to transform its economy and modernize the lives of all Rwandans. Rwanda has set an ambitious target, aspiring to become an upper-middle income country (UMIC) by 2035, and a high-income country (HIC) by 2050. The Vision intensifies the country's ambitions and continues the drive towards self-reliance and competitiveness. These goals build on remarkable development successes over the last two decades that included high growth, rapid poverty reduction brought by the two medium term Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies (EDPRS 1 & 2). The two Strategies reduced inequality between 2001 and 2015, with a real GDP growth averaged at about 8% per annum.

Specifically, the Vision 2050 aims to achieve the following key economic targets:

- By 2035: GDP per capita of over USD 4,036; and
- By 2050: GDP per capita of over USD 12,476



Vision 2050 establishes the development framework for 2020-2050, with a mid-term review envisaged in 2035 and regular reviews planned every 5 years.

On the social dimension, there has been social progress, such as improvements in health care, literacy rates and gender equality. The country has performed well in education, health care and curbing population growth. Education for all is a major objective of the Government. The primary net enrollment rate is 99% for boys and girls, The literacy rate of people aged 15 and above was 73.2% as of 2018. Rwanda stands out globally for its efforts in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), through increased participation in political position (nearly two thirds of its parliamentary seats and 52% of cabinet positions and narrowing the gender gap including the decline of maternal mortality rates.

Generally, Rwanda knew a rapid socio-economic growth. Rwanda's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2019 is 0.543, putting the country in the low human development category (positioned at 160 out of 189 countries). Between 1990 and 2019, Rwanda's HDI value increased from 0.248 to 0.543, an increase of 119.0 percent. Over the period, Rwanda's life expectancy at birth increased by 35.6 years, mean years of schooling increased by 2.7 years and expected years of schooling increased by 5.5 years. Rwanda's GNI per capita increased by about 130.9 percent between 1990 and 2019.

Despite the Government's achievements to ensure a strong and sustainable socio-economic growth, major challenges still exist including: poor infrastructure and a lack of access to electricity, investment heavily relying on foreign aid with stable inflows critical to keep the current investment rate high at about 25% of GDP. Reducing the country's dependency on foreign aid through domestic resource mobilization and promoting domestic savings remains critical.





## Summary of HI presence in the country

HI started operating in Rwanda after the genocide against Tutsi in July 1994. From 1994 to 1996, HI worked alongside many other NGOs to provide emergency assistance to a population plunged in extreme distress, misery and poverty. From 1996 to 2000, the country experienced a period of relative social, political and administrative stability, during which HI engaged in long-term activities aimed at improving the living conditions of vulnerable people, particularly those with mental health problems and HIV / AIDS, by providing them with appropriate support.

Since 2001, HI has contributed to the country's development through different projects. Projects on community-based mental health to prevent violence against gender-based violence, protect children from abuse and violence - especially children with disabilities, mental health in the refugee camps and care for people with epilepsy. On promoting education for all, establishing and promoting access to rehabilitation and occupational therapy services, and community-based rehabilitation (CBR),

Following the reduction in the volume of the "HIV/AIDS and Disability" project from 2010 and the decision to concentrate the program activities in a more limited area, particularly in the West of the country, the number of districts where HI Rwanda intervened directly or via its partners decreased from 25 to 13 at the end of 2012 (out of 30 in the country).

From 2019, HI covers the 30 districts of Rwanda. The increase was due to the addition of two new projects: The Leave No One Behind project in the camps and the EXACTE Inclusive Education project in the schools.

From 2013, the geographic area of HI interventions in Rwanda has evolved as follows:

- End 2013: 9 districts
- End 2014: 11 districts
- End of 2015: 15 districts + 6 refugee camps
- End 2016: 24 districts + 6 refugee camps
- End 2017: 24 districts + 7 refugee camps+ 2 urban areas (Huye & Kigali)
- In 2019-2020: 30 districts + 7 refugee camps + 2 urban areas (Huye & Kigali) + Gashora Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM).
- In 2021: 30 districts + 7 refugee camps + 2 urban areas (Huye & Kigali) + Gashora Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). With effect from Mid-September 2021, the camps will be 6 because Congolese refugees from Gihembe Camp (Northern) will be sent to Mahama Camp (Eastern)

Additional 4 new projects were launched in 2022. They include the German Federal Foreign Office funded regional project implemented in 5 refugee camps, an extension of the Swiss Cooperation funded project on the fight against gender-based violence in 2 districts, 2 USAID funded consortiums with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) on Inclusive Nutrition and ECD for 5 years in 10 districts and with World Vision (WV) on community-based reading in 13 districts of the country.

# Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships.

Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
<p><b>HELASIA Health, Education &amp; Livelihood Africa: a Sustainable Inclusion Approach</b></p> <p>Inclusive Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify the main challenges faced by people with disabilities</li> <li>• To determine how a program of exchange of experiences could contribute to promoting change</li> <li>• Establish / reinforce national multi-stakeholder consultation mechanisms between Disabled People Organisations, Civil Society Organisations and governments</li> <li>• Implement a multi-stakeholders inclusive local development approach to promote an enhanced quality service delivery for Persons with Disabilities</li> <li>• Draft and implement national and regional advocacy strategies to promote disability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 Organization of persons with disabilities and their members</li> <li>• Civil Society organizations</li> <li>• Persons with Disabilities</li> <li>• 11 representatives from Organizations of persons with disabilities</li> <li>• 20 young girls from organizations of persons with disabilities and 34 students from universities</li> <li>• 30 youths with disabilities from Districts of Intervention</li> <li>• Services providers</li> <li>• Ministry of Education and affiliated institutions</li> <li>• Entire community of districts of intervention</li> </ul>	<p>National Union of Disability Organizations of Rwanda ( )</p>	<p>National Level, NyamRasheke and Rutsiro districts.</p>	<p>01.2020 – 06.2023</p>	<p>Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)</p>

	Draft and implement national and regional advocacy strategies to promote disability					
<p><b>Rehabilitation, Inclusive Humanitarian Action, MHPSS, &amp; Stimulation Therapy in Crisis-Affected Sub-Saharan Africa for Vulnerable groups (RIMSCASSA)</b></p> <p>Physical and functional rehabilitation, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support persons with specific needs to get services such as: assistive devices, specialized medical care services, functional rehabilitation, mental health and psychosocial support services etc.</li> <li>• Train the persons of concern with specific needs to advocate for themselves and meaningfully participate in community activities</li> <li>• Strengthen inclusion and participation of persons with specific needs notably: persons with disabilities, older persons and persons with mental health issues through training of humanitarian agencies and community members on how to eliminate all potential causes of inequalities and barriers that hinder the persons of concerns from reaching their full potentials.</li> </ul>	<p><b>25,681 persons with specific needs</b> (13,097 Females &amp; 12584 Males) comprised of <b>4,354</b> persons with disabilities, 8,646 older persons, and 12,681 persons with mental health and psychosocial issues</p>	Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management	<p><b>5 Refugee camp and the surrounding host communities:</b> Kigeme, Mugombwa, Kiziba, Nyabiheke, Mahama,</p> <p><b>2 urban areas:</b> Kigali &amp; Huye, <b>Gashora Camp</b> under the emergency transit mechanism</p>	07.2022 – 06.2024	Germany Federal Foreign office (GFFO)
<p><b>Strengthening inclusion &amp; access to services for persons with specific needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to services for their specific needs such as: assistive devices, specialized medical care services, functional rehabilitation, mental health and psychosocial support services etc.</li> <li>• Empower persons with specific needs: Persons with disabilities, elderly and</li> </ul>	<p><b>14,866 persons with specific needs</b> comprised of: 3,260 persons with disabilities, 3,125 older persons and 8,481 persons with mental health and psychosocial issues</p>	Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management	<p><b>5 Refugee camp and the surrounding host communities:</b> Kigeme, Mugombwa,</p>	01.2022 – 12.2022	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



<p>Physical and functional rehabilitation, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</p>	<p>persons with mental health and psychosocial issues with knowledge and skills to advocate for their rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate the existing inequalities and barriers that hinder persons with specific needs from exercising their rights through training of service providers on inclusion and community sensitization on the rights of persons with disabilities</li> </ul>			<p>Kiziba, Nyabiheke, Mahama, <b>2 urban areas:</b> Kigali &amp; Huye, <b>Gashora Camp</b> under the emergency transit mechanism</p>		
<p><b>Promoting integrated child development and inclusive services for all in Rwanda.</b></p> <p>Early Childhood Development, Physical and functional rehabilitation, Inclusive Education, Maternal and Newborn Child Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve the motor, language and social development and quality of life of children (0-12 years), especially children with disabilities or at risk of developmental delay</li> <li>• Reinforce capacities of care givers, parents and/or parent figures and the local community in order for them to provide a safe and supportive environment for the development and participation of children</li> <li>• Give access to adequate opportunities for early stimulation, learning, development and protection to children</li> <li>• Support the development and implementation of national policies, strategies, action plans and guidelines that promote responsive care, early childhood development and quality of life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5,455 pregnant women</li> <li>• 2,188 mothers in postnatal visit</li> <li>• 5,455 newborns</li> <li>• 610 Children at risk of developmental delay</li> <li>• 3,300 children from 44 Early Childhood Development services</li> <li>• 525 disabled children</li> <li>• 18,656 students from 22 inclusive schools</li> <li>• 2,200 caregivers</li> </ul>	<p>HVP Gatagara, Rwanda Organisation for Epilepsy</p>	<p>Muhanga, Musanze, Gicumbi and Karongi district</p>	<p>01.2022-12.2026</p>	<p>Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD)  Ministry of Foreign Affairs Luxembourg</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the quality of inclusive health, rehabilitation and education services to meet the needs of children</li> </ul>					
<p><b>Prevention and response of Gender, Age and Disability Based Violence through a Community Mental Health Approach</b></p> <p>Protection against violence and abuse, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The status of women, especially those who are victims of sexual and gender-based violence, is improved and enables them to integrate into community life.</li> <li>• Response to direct and indirect survivors and perpetrators of violence through the community mental health approach</li> <li>• Contribute to the quality improvement of comprehensive care (medical, psychological, legal and judicial) for survivors</li> <li>• Knowledge and skills transfer of mental health community-based approach to the decentralized structures and institutions accompanying survivors</li> <li>• To carry out advocacy actions supported by the results of the capitalization of the community mental health approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,052 victims and perpetrators of violence accompanied for their psychosocial reintegration. (78 cases of rape; 1,746 other sexual and gender based violence and 228 perpetrators of domestic violence)</li> <li>• 150 community volunteers</li> <li>• 165 community actors (local authorities and other community actors involved in prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence )</li> </ul>	Apesek-Girimpuhwe, Tumurere	Gasabo & Rutsiro Districts	01.2022 – 09.2023	Direction du Développement et de la Coopération Suisse (DDC)
<p><b>Expand Access to Inclusive Basic Education for children with disabilities in</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible digital textbooks in all 60 model inclusive schools <b>Main Activities</b></li> <li>• Capacity building of district and sector education officials in all 416 sectors and all 30 districts</li> <li>• Assessment and Referral Program in 2 districts of Bugesera and Huye. Schools</li> </ul>	14,976 teachers, 536 educational officials, 1,248 schools, 250 children with disabilities, 416 educational officials at district and sector levels	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, Ministry of Local Government and	All 416 sectors in all 30 districts	10.2022 – 09.2023	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

<p><b>Rwanda (EXACTE V)</b></p> <p>Inclusive Education</p>	<p>remain the same 4 model inclusive schools in these two districts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building for Training of Trainers in all 416 sectors and 30 districts</li> <li>• Adapt schools’ facilities such as pathways, toilets and classrooms to adjust their physical environment for learners with mobility challenges</li> </ul>	<p>officials at district and sector levels</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, Rwanda Basic Education Board, The National Union of Disability Organizations in Rwanda, the National Council of Persons with Disabilities, University of Rwanda-College of Education</p>			
<p><b>Inclusive Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (INECD)</b></p> <p><b>Kinyarwanda name: Gikuriro kuri Bose</b></p> <p>: Early Childhood Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve the health, functioning, nutritional status, and wellbeing of women of reproductive age and children under five years of age, with an emphasis on the 1,000-day window, strengthen inclusion of children and adults with disabilities, and improve positive parenting and child development</li> <li>• Strengthen governance, coordination and implementation of the National Strategic Plan at the national, district, sector, cell and village level</li> <li>• Improve access to and availability of quality services that promote inclusive nurturing care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 481 frontline providers</li> <li>• 800 persons with disabilities</li> <li>• 5 district hospitals</li> <li>• 2 Rehab/AT services of district &amp; referral hospitals</li> <li>• 4 Government institutions</li> <li>• 2 Academic institutions supported to strengthen their capacities in 3D Printing and Telerehabilitation</li> <li>• 3 Rehab associations receive training on latest technology and protocols</li> <li>• 30 local Civil Society Organisations receive</li> </ul>	<p>National Child Development Agency</p>	<p>10 districts:</p> <p>North: Nyabihu, Burera and Rulindo.</p> <p>East: Ngoma and Kayonza.</p> <p>South-west: Nyamasheke and Nyanza.</p> <p>Central: Nyarugenge, Kicukiro and Rwamagana.</p>	<p>11.2021 – 08.2026</p>	<p>USAID through Catholic Relief Service (CRS).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase household resources and skills to provide optimal nurturing care and promote healthy growth and development</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Main Activitie.</u></b></p>	necessary tools and skills on advocacy and social mobilization				
<p><b>Homes &amp; Communities</b></p> <p><b>Kinyarwanda name : Uburezi Iwacu</b></p> <p>Inclusive Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation and provision of specialized materials to support children with disabilities and those with multisensory learning needs participate in learning and reading activities</li> <li>• Creation of community education volunteers at village level and reinforce their capacity in identifying children with disabilities and sending them to community reading spaces as well as monitoring their transition to primary schools</li> <li>• Building the capacities of the sector multidisciplinary teams to assess the needs of children with disabilities and give advice on their pedagogical orientations, decide on referral to appropriate services and monitor children’s individual education plans</li> <li>• Reinforcement of the role to be played by community leaders, religious leaders and stakeholder networks in changing attitudes that constitute barriers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26,531 children with disabilities</li> <li>• 6,408 role model parents/guardians,</li> <li>• 4,090 most disadvantaged children with disabilities referred to specialized services</li> <li>• 19,244 Community Education Volunteers/Activists</li> <li>• 6,480 children with disabilities connected to referral services</li> <li>• 1,560 teachers from 12 inclusive model schools and 60 satellite schools</li> <li>• 810 sector multidisciplinary teams members</li> </ul>	Rwanda Union for the Blind Rwanda Union for the Deaf UWEZO	12 DISTRICTS (Ruhango, Nyanza, Gisagara, Huye, Rusizi, Ngororero, Nyabihu, Gakenke, Gatsibo, Nyagatare, Ngoma and Kirehe)	12.2021 – 05.2026	USAID throughWorld Vision

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building the capacity of teachers from 12 inclusive model schools and from 60 satellite schools on children's educational assessment</li><li>• Building the capacity of headteachers on monitoring children's learning milestones, language and literacy achievement, transition, promotion and learning outcomes of learners with disabilities and those with multi-sensory learning needs</li><li>• Child protection and differentiated instruction</li><li>• Braille, sign language &amp; fabrication of educational materials</li></ul> |  |  |  |  |  |
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# Donors

<p>Directorate-general Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid</p>  <p><b>Belgique</b> partenaire du développement</p>	<p>GFFO</p>  <p>german humanitarian assistance DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE</p>	<p>UNICEF</p> 
<p>UNHCR</p>  <p><b>UNHCR</b> The UN Refugee Agency</p>	<p>Switzerland Development Cooperation</p>  <p>Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra</p>	<p>USAID</p>  <p><b>USAID</b> FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE</p>
<p>NORAD</p>  <p><b>Norad</b></p>	<p>Mae Lux</p>  <p><b>LUXEMBOURG</b> AID &amp; DEVELOPMENT</p>	