



Country Sheet  
**Rwanda**



# HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Rwanda program has 75 staff members and is part of the EAR Program.



# General data of the country

## a) General Data

DATA	Rwanda	Kenya	Belgium
Population	14.1	55.1	11.8
IHDI	0.377	0.438	0.878
SIGI Score	19	32.9	7.4
Maternal Mortality	259	530	5
GINI Index	43.7	38.7	26.6
Population within UNHCR mandate	135.042	777.324	222.589
INFORM Index	3.5	6.2	2.1
Fragile State Index	81.8	86.5	30.3
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	9.8	7.2	100
Net official development assistance received (millions)	1.076,8	2.652	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 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 were when 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.

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.

Following the decision to concentrate the program activities in a more limited area, the number of districts where HI Rwanda intervened decreased from 25 to 13 at the end of 2012. But 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.

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 on Inclusive Nutrition and Early Childhood Development for 5 years in 10 districts and with World Vision on community-based reading in 13 districts of the country.

In addition, 2 new projects were launched on 1 November 2022 and 1 July 2023 respectively: the project called REKA (which means STOP in Kinyarwanda) on protection of children against violence in 2 districts of Rutsiro (West) and Kirehe (East) was financed by AFD and the UQADR project was also financed by MAE LUX, with a particular focus on the manufacture of assistive devices using 3D Technology, and will serve refugee camps and the Rwandan host community.

In 2024, two new projects (Zero Out of School, implemented in consortium with Save the Children and funded by the Qatar Government) and REACH (on tele-rehabilitation) funded by ENABEL were launched.

# 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>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</li> <li>• Reinforce the capacities of caregivers, parents and the local community to provide a safe and supportive environment for the development and participation of children.</li> <li>• Give children access to adequate opportunities for early stimulation, learning, development, and protection.</li> <li>• Support developing and implementing national policies that promote responsive care, early childhood development and quality of life.</li> <li>• Improve the quality of inclusive health, rehabilitation, and education services.</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>	HVP Gatagara, Rwanda Organisation for Epilepsy	Muhanga, Musanze, Gicumbi and Karongi district	01.2022-12.2026	<p>Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD)</p> <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs Luxembourg</p>

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>REACH Rwanda - Rehabilitation Enhancement and Access through Connected Healthcare in Rwanda</b></p> <p>Physical and functional rehabilitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generation of evidence about effectiveness of telerehabilitation through scientific research and publication.</li> <li>• Collaborative development of evidence-based telerehabilitation standard operating procedures and protocols.</li> <li>• Cost-calculation of telerehabilitation services</li> <li>• Advocacy activities, including workshops and meetings with relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>• Software maintenance and localization.</li> <li>• Information technology equipment provision to rehabilitation service providers.</li> <li>• Training of Trainer and education for rehabilitation service providers.</li> <li>• Provision of telerehabilitation services.</li> <li>• Training of patients.</li> <li>• Assessment of patients satisfaction and feedback on quality of services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 patients (users of telerehabilitation services)</li> </ul>	<p>Regional Centre of Excellence in Biomedical Engineering and eHealth</p>	<p>Kigali City (Gasabo district), Northern province – Gicumbi, and Musanze district; Southern province - Nyanza District, Eastern province – Kayonza district; Western province - Karongi and Nyamasheje District)</p>	<p>1.9.2024-31.8.2026</p>	<p>ENABEL</p>
<p><b>Zero out of School</b></p> <p>Inclusive Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct consultations and review latest out of school children data and barriers.</li> <li>• Conduct mapping at local and national level to identify key education actors and better understand roles, responsibilities, capacity.</li> </ul>	<p>177,119 children who are out of school</p>	<p>Save the Children (Prime)</p> <p>National Union of Disability Organizations in Rwanda</p>	<p>30 districts of Rwanda</p>	<p>1.1.2024-31.7.2028</p>	<p>Educate A Child (EAC)</p>

Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop / update disaggregated data collection tools.</li> <li>• Pilot tools and guidelines to collect users' feedback and make adaptations.</li> <li>• Set-up new and train multi-disciplinary committees to develop and follow Individualized Education Plan.</li> <li>• Mentor committees for the establishment of School Improvement Plans that identify and address school-specific barriers to enrollment, attendance and retention.</li> <li>• Conduct school environment safety, gender-sensitivity, disability inclusion and accessibility assessments.</li> <li>• Assess teaching and learning materials and provide guidance to create materials that are fully accessible to children with different abilities.</li> </ul>					
<b>Inclusive Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (INECD)</b> <b>Kinyarwanda name: Gikuriro kuri Bose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the health and well-being of women of reproductive age and children under five years of age</li> <li>• Strengthen the inclusion of children and adults with disabilities and improve positive parenting and child development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30,000 frontline providers</li> <li>• 820,000 Women of Reproductive age</li> </ul>	National Child Development Agency	10 districts: North: Nyabihu, Burera, and Rulindo. East: Ngoma and Kayonza.	11.2021 – 08.2026	USAID through Catholic Relief Service (CRS).

Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
Early Childhood Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen governance, coordination, and implementation of the National Strategic Plan at all levels</li> <li>• Improve access to and availability of quality services that promote inclusive nurturing care</li> <li>• Increase household resources and skills to provide optimal nurturing care and promote healthy growth and development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 725,000 Children under 5 and their families</li> <li>• 76,482 persons with disabilities</li> </ul>		South-west: Nyamasheke and Nyanza. Central: Nyarugenge, Kicukiro and Rwamagana.		
<b>Homes &amp; Communities</b>  Kinyarwanda name : <b>Uburezi Iwacu</b>  Inclusive Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot the Learning Passports to promote and track child participation in literacy activities.</li> <li>• Build the capacity of community librarians and teachers on the use of assistive technology and supportive software.</li> <li>• Integrate literacy materials and activities for children with disabilities into reading clubs</li> <li>• Conduct training of parents of children with visual disabilities on basics of Braille and parents of children with hearing disabilities on sign language.</li> <li>• Conduct training and coaching sessions on locally made reading materials.</li> <li>• Develop a Community of Practice of educators and administrators in getting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26,531 children with disabilities</li> <li>• 6,408 Community Education Volunteers/Activists</li> <li>• 4,090 children with disabilities connected to referral services</li> <li>• 810 sector multidisciplinary teams members</li> <li>• 144 head teachers and deputy head teachers from 12 targeted demonstration' schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Education</li> <li>• Rwanda Basic Education Board</li> <li>• National Child Development Agency</li> <li>• National Council of Persons with Disabilities</li> <li>• Rwanda Union of the Blind</li> <li>• Rwanda Union of the Deaf</li> </ul>	12 districts (Ruhango, Nyanza, Gisagara, Huye, Rusizi, Ngororero, Nyabihu, Gakenke, Gatsibo, Nyagatare, Ngoma and Kirehe)	12.2021 – 08.2026	USAID through World Vision

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>information and knowledge on supporting children with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leverage faith-based communities, networks, and leaders to promote literacy, inclusion, positive and playful parenting, learning promotion and reduce stigma.</li> <li>• Strengthen community level coordination mechanism to monitor children’s literacy programmes and transition to primary schools.</li> </ul>	<p>and 60 satellite schools</p>				
<p><b>REKA</b></p> <p>Protection against violence and abuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop inclusive educational content on the themes of violence perpetrated against children and adolescents</li> <li>• Organize community and school awareness-raising campaigns</li> <li>• Strengthen community structures and actors in prevention, holistic care and psychosocial reintegration mechanisms for survivors</li> <li>• Setting up &amp; strengthening of self-help groups of parents and people at risk.</li> <li>• Mobilize men to support collective efforts in reduction of violence based on gender, age and disability.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Target beneficiaries:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 Children victims of violences</li> <li>• 40 Children with disabilities</li> <li>• 6,000 Children at risk</li> <li>• 516 Family members for 172 families</li> <li>• 40 Service providers</li> <li>• 72 Community ators</li> <li>• 30 Educational professionals</li> <li>• 30 Male champions</li> <li>• Alliance members 20</li> </ul>	<p>Play International (Partner in Consortium)</p> <p>Caritas Rwanda (Local partner for project implementation)</p>	<p><b><u>Rutsiro District</u></b>  <i>In 4 sectors and 4 cells:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mukura - Kageyo</li> <li>• Manihira - Haniro</li> <li>• Rusebeya-Remara</li> <li>• Murunda - Kigwa</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Kirehe District</u></b>  <i>In 2 sectors and 4 cells</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gahara – Murehe &amp; Muhamba</li> </ul>	<p>11.2022 - 10.2025</p>	<p>Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD)</p>

Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a safe and protective environment in model schools.</li> <li>• Analyze barriers to accessing services for women and children survivors of violence.</li> <li>• Build the capacity of holistic service providers to offer quality, inclusive and accessible services.</li> <li>• Implement a psychosocial care program using the art therapy approach.</li> <li>• Improve the coordination of interventions to ensure holistic and inclusive care.</li> <li>• Influence the legal and political framework at local and national level by advocacy actions.</li> <li>• Involve children's committees in process of project monitoring &amp; evaluation activities as well as in advocacy activities.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mpanga &amp; Musongi</li> </ul>		
<b>Unlocking Access to Quality and Affordable Assistive Devices through 3D Technology in the refugee camps of Rwanda (UQADR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To strengthen the capacity of the national system to pilot the use of 3D scanning, digital design and printing in Rwanda.</li> <li>• To train rehabilitation professionals on the use of the 3D scanning and printing.</li> <li>• To produce quality and cost-effective assistive aids for refugees and host</li> </ul>	<p>150 persons with specific needs in assistive technology products (prostheses and orthoses)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministries of Health &amp; in Charge of Emergency Management</li> <li>• Rwanda Biomedical Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Refugee camp and the surrounding host communities: Kigeme, Mugombwa, Kiziba, Nyabiheke,</li> </ul>	<p>01.07.2023 – 1.12.2024</p>	<p>MAE Luxembourg</p>

Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
Physical and functional rehabilitation	<p>community members in needs through partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To sensitize the supported refugees and host community members to utilize the assistive devices to better and equally participate in various services available in their respective communities.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Council of Persons with Disabilities</li> <li>UNHCR</li> <li>University of Rwanda</li> <li>Centre of Excellence for Biomedical Engineering</li> <li>HVP Gatagara</li> <li>Rwanda Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists</li> <li>Rwanda Physiotherapy Organization</li> <li>Rwanda Occupational Therapy Association</li> <li>Teaching, Referral, Specialized and District Hospitals in Rwanda</li> </ul>	<p>Mahama I and Mahama II,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 urban areas: Kigali &amp; Huye, Gashora Camp under the emergency transit mechanism</li> <li>HVP GATAGARA as the 3D centre of production</li> </ul>		

# Donors

<p>DGD</p> 	<p>Mae Lux</p> 	<p>ENABEL</p> 
<p>EAC</p> 	<p>AFD</p> 	<p>USAID</p> 