

AT2030
Case Study

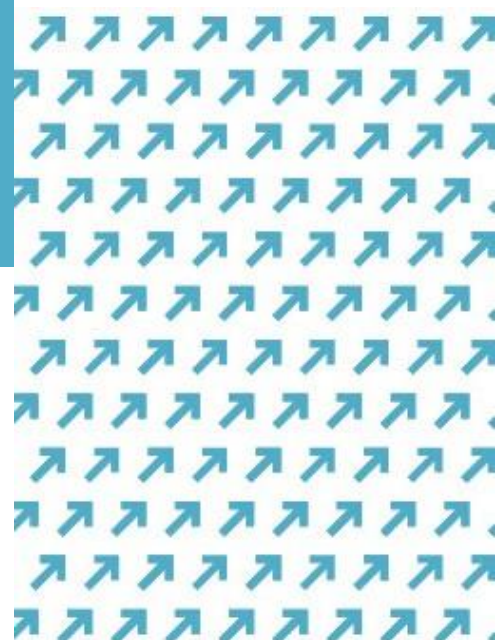
Prepared by
Clinton Health Access
Initiative

**Cluster 3 Country
Implementation**

Country
Rwanda

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National Partner Event to Galvanize Support on the Disability Information System for Inclusive Development



Funded by



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DMIS Background

Persons with disabilities continue to face significant inequalities and exclusion from society, which is exacerbated by the lack of comprehensive data. This dearth of information poses challenges for the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) and its stakeholders in effectively advocating for change, implementing targeted interventions, and measuring progress.

The NCPD serves as a platform for advocacy and social mobilization, representing the voices of persons with disabilities. The organisation for persons with disabilities (OPD) also collaborates with the Government of Rwanda to develop and implement programs and policies that benefit this marginalized group, while also strengthening the disability network in the country.

Recognizing the need to address the lack of disability data, the NCPD has taken the initiative to develop a Disability Management Information System (DMIS). This system aims to provide evidence-based support for inclusive policies, enhance accountability, improve service delivery, and foster better coordination among key stakeholders. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance management of disability information in the country for the following purposes:

- Equitable access to appropriate and affordable assistive technology, inclusive health services and social services
- Evidence based advocacy for increased access to affordable AT

- Real time needs assessment for people with disabilities in AT, social protection and other social services

The DMIS is an innovative digital tool designed to identify and register all persons with disabilities, offering a case-management support feature. By providing up-to-date and reliable information, the DMIS empowers policymakers and decision-makers with the necessary data to make evidence based decisions on the priority interventions for people living with disabilities.

Emmanuel Ndayisaba, the Executive Secretary of the NCPD, highlights the current data deficiency, stating, "**We do not have comprehensive information about disabilities in Rwanda; we only rely on data collected ten years ago.**" This emphasizes the urgent need for a robust and comprehensive data collection system such as the DMIS.

To test the effectiveness of the DMIS, a successful pilot was conducted in the Gasabo district from August to September 2022. This pilot covered both rural and urban areas, targeting the identification of 4,000 persons with disabilities across eight sectors: Ndera, Rusororo, Bumbogo, Kinyinya, Jali, Gatsata, Remera and Kacyiru. Building on this success, the NCPD now aims to expand the implementation of the DMIS countrywide; however, securing funding for this next phase remains a challenge. The NCPD estimates that USD 1.5 million is required to implement the DMIS nationwide.



National Partner Event to galvanize support for scaling up DMIS

To garner widespread support for the nationwide implementation of the DMIS, CHAI collaborated with the NCPD to organize a national fundraising event which was held on August 26, 2022 at the Kigali Convention Centre. The primary objectives of the National Partner Event were two-fold: 1) to gather valuable feedback from key stakeholders to enhance the system in preparation for its countrywide implementation, and 2) to mobilize resources from development partners, with the aim of securing funding for the comprehensive rollout of the DMIS.

Programme

The half-day afternoon event was structured into two sessions. The first session focused on introducing the DMIS as well as exploring partnership opportunities through presentations delivered by government officials, persons with disabilities, and partner organizations. Discussions during this segment revolved around the significance of the DMIS for Rwanda, the potential for support and partnerships, and perspectives from disability-focused organizations.

The second session comprised a roundtable, where stakeholders had the opportunity to provide technical feedback on the DMIS in order to improve the system. A live session provided an overview of the functionality of the DMIS and the implementation plan going forward. This was followed by an interactive consultation involving key stakeholders and technical experts in the disability sector, aimed at gathering valuable feedback and input on the system and its plans for countrywide roll-out. Additionally, the event facilitated networking and relationship-building among stakeholders from the government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

Key Speakers



- **Dr. Corneille Killy Ntihakose**, Director General of Clinical and Public Health Services, Ministry of Health
- **Mussolini Eugene**, Member of Parliament representing persons with disabilities
- **Anna Wilson**, Development Director, FCDO
- **Clement Häusler**, Deputy Head of German Cooperation
- **Eugenie Mukantagwera**, Country Director, CBM
- **Julianna Lindsey**, UNICEF Country Representative

Quotes & Statements

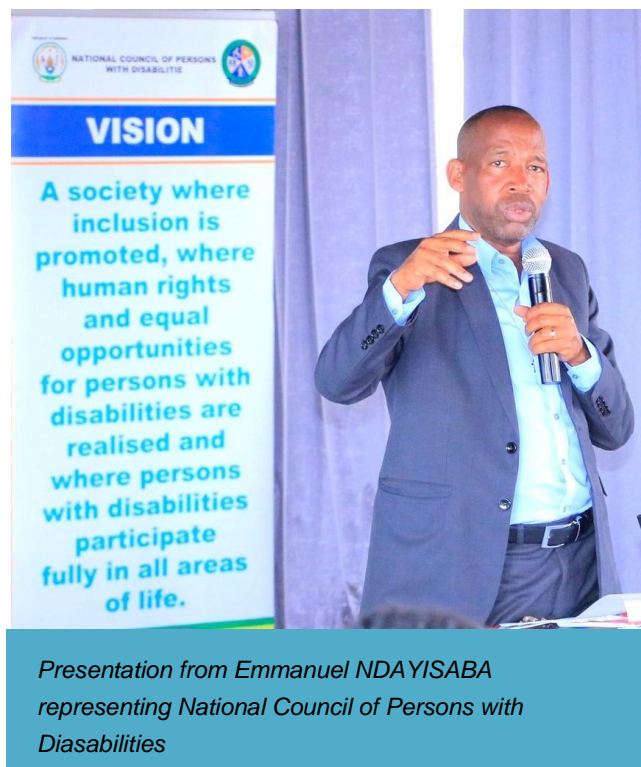
- ***“DMIS will increase the level of data collection on persons with disabilities, ultimately increasing effectiveness of strategies aimed at promoting disability inclusion.”*** - *Dr. Corneille Killy Ntihakose – Director General, Clinical and Public Health Services, Ministry of Health*
- ***“DMIS is critical to developing more responsive programs in areas such as Education and Assistive Technology... a gamechanger... an opportunity we cannot miss to support.”*** - *Anna Wilson, Development Director, FCDO*
- ***“When a country has data, what gets measured gets done.”*** - *Julianna Lindsey, the UNICEF representative in Rwanda.*

- ***“For us to have an effective database, we need thorough data collection on the living conditions of the people with disabilities.” - Emmanuel NDAYISABA, Executive Secretary, NCPD***
- ***“DMIS data will be a foundation that government and partners can build on for planning interventions. I call upon partners and funders to support DMIS project to collect data and use data” - Mussolini Eugene, Rwanda Parliament***

Attendees

76 attendees participated in the event, which included 60 participants from key partner organizations and 16 journalists. Among the attendees were representatives from various government ministries and agencies, such as the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of ICT & Innovation, and Ministry of

Health. Additionally, institutional funders like FCDO, UNICEF, USAID, and the World Bank were present. Notable private sector companies like Comsense Technologies, international NGOs including CBM, World



Vision, and Catholic Relief Humanity & Inclusion, and UN agencies like UNICEF and UNDP were also in attendance. The event was further enriched by the presence of umbrella organizations for persons with disabilities in Rwanda, namely the National Union of Disability Organisations of Rwanda (NUDOR) and Umbrella Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in the fight against HIV & AIDS and for Health Promotion (UPHLS).

Impact

While no immediate commitments were made during the National Partner Event, its impact on raising awareness among stakeholders and government ministries in Rwanda was substantial. The event successfully conveyed the understanding that disability and inclusion issues, such as access to AT, transcend individual sectors and instead intersect with various aspects of society. As a result, there has been a heightened dedication to supporting data collection initiatives in order to address the multi-faceted nature of disability and promote inclusivity across sectors.

The event received significant media coverage, with 16 journalists representing 11 media companies in attendance. The news was broadcasted on prominent platforms such as Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA), including Radio Rwanda and Rwanda Television. Other private television channels like Flash TV and BTN TV, along with private radio stations like ISANGO STAR, KIGALI TODAY, Flash radio, and INKORAMUTIMA, covered the event extensively. The event's news was published in newspapers like The New Times, Imvaho Nshya, Rwanda



Tribune, and Kigali Today, among others. The widespread media coverage contributed to promoting disability-inclusive development and initiating fundraising efforts for DMIS implementation, positioning Rwanda as a regional leader in advancing disability inclusion and rights.

Radio/TV Station	Coverage (%)
Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA)	99%
Flash radio/ TV	70%
ISANGO STAR	65%
KT (Kigali Today) radio	88%
INKORAMUTIMA	60%

Figure 1. Coverage data (% of population reached in Rwanda per media outlet) – Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA)

Next Steps

Significant progress has been observed following the event in relation to DMIS. The Ministry of Local Government, through its Chief Digital Office, has established a dedicated team to oversee the final stages of the development of DMIS, as well as preparations for scaling up data collection to the rest of the country, technical support, and system maintenance.

GIZ is currently conducting a comprehensive sustainability study aimed at understanding the stakeholder support structure required, existing national and international data collection frameworks, and ensuring the continuous availability of data. The expected outcomes of the study

include an Operational Model that highlights the organizational structure and processes for DMIS operation, as well as an Implementation Plan proposal, encompassing a roadmap for DMIS implementation, including capacity building for enumerators and DMIS Case Managers in all 30 districts of the country, members of Disability Coordination forum, and NCPD staff at the national level.

UNICEF has committed to funding the implementation of DMIS in two districts, Huye and Bugesera, scheduled to take place between June and September 2023.

To facilitate effective data collection, DMIS Case Managers from 28 out of 30 districts in Rwanda have received training on the DMIS data collection process, funded by AT2030.

CHAI and the NCPD share the belief that the event was a resounding triumph, successfully rallying support for the DMIS system. The event witnessed the participation of numerous key stakeholders and partners, including government entities, development partners, private sector organizations, and disability-focused organizations. The event also significantly heightened awareness of the critical need for disability-related data and underscored the importance of DMIS in addressing existing data gaps. Following the event, commitments were made, and positive ongoing conversations between the NCPD and partners continue, such as exploring additional funding opportunities for DMIS implementation across the country.

Moreover, the government has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to provide the necessary support and infrastructure for the



system's operation, recognizing that government ownership is pivotal to the successful implementation of DMIS. With the system being fully functional and operational, the availability of disaggregated disability data will serve as a foundational resource for effective advocacy, better planning, and targeted interventions, such as provision and access to AT.

