



World Organization of the Scout Movement



'MIRSA'

## Mentoring for Inclusion in Rwanda Scouts Association (MIRSA)

### Project Summary

Pilot project to train Rwandan Scout leaders about Inclusion with best practice principles from the Belgian Scout movement.

Children and young people with a disability are often excluded in society. Not only are they excluded from education but also from leisure activities such as Scouting. Apart from special centres there are no opportunities for children and youth with a disability to meet peers, to develop skills or to have fun.

'Akabe' is the section for children and youth with a disability in the Belgian Scout Movement. Children and youth with an intellectual or physical disability are included in existing scout groups or can form a group of their own, if the emotional well-being of the child is endangered. Children and youth with and without disability play together, learn from each other and become friends.

Akabe Belgium will share their experience with the Rwandan Scout Movement so scouts in Rwanda - together with families of CwD and special centres will be able to realise the benefits of an inclusive Scout movement.



Deaf scouts

### The Problem

Since its founding in 1910, the World Scout Movement (WSM) has had fully participating members with physical, intellectual and social-emotional disabilities. James E. West, the first Chief Scout Executive was a person with a disability.

Although most of the WSM's efforts have been directed at keeping such boys and girls in the mainstream of Scouting, it has also recognized the special needs of those with significant disabilities.

Staff and scout leaders in the Rwanda Scouts Association



do not (yet!) have the knowledge or experience to facilitate inclusive activities for children and young people with and without disabilities as there are no CWD's enrolled in any Rwandan scout group. As mentioned earlier, PWD are often excluded and marginalized and there is very little knowledge about disabilities or abilities.

The WSM's purpose of Scouting is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social, spiritual, emotional and character potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

## Rwanda Scout Background

Rwanda Scouts Association (RSA) is the largest youth development organization in Rwanda and has been a Permanent member of the World Organization of Scouting Movement since 1975. Scouting in Rwanda was established in 1950 and now has more than 35,500 boy and girl scouts.

Scouting is an international, education non-profit movement for young people open to all boys and girls without any kind of discrimination related to: religion, race, origin, ethnicity and gender. The movement was founded by Lord Robert Baden Powell, a general in the English army in 1907 at Brownsea Island in England.

Rwanda Scouts Association has grown many leaders of the country and it believes that teaching and motivating young people is a key to building a more creative, productive and ethical community.

Through Astrid Herbosch, a Belgian VSO volunteer working with Children with Disabilities in Rwanda 2014-2016, Rwanda Scout Association learnt of the Akabe experience in Belgium (Akabe is the section for children with disabilities under Scouting Flanders, Belgium).

Akabe is in operation with children and young people with disabilities in scouting. This can be in separate groups, branches or in mixed operation. The purpose of Akabe is inclusion (every person, regardless of his or her limitations, must be given the opportunity to be part of society).

More info :[www.scoutsengidsenvlaanderen.be](http://www.scoutsengidsenvlaanderen.be) and  
[www.scout.org\\_worldbureau@scout.org](mailto:www.scout.org_worldbureau@scout.org)

## Solution

The basic premise of Scouting for children and youth with disabilities and special needs is that they want to participate like any other child and Scouting gives them that opportunity. Thus, much of the program for Scouts with disabilities and special needs is directed at helping unit leaders develop an awareness of disabled people among youth and children without disabilities and encouraging the inclusion of Scouts with disabilities and special needs in Scout groups and scout leader teams.

However, there are many units or scout groups composed of members with similar disabilities or special needs such as an all-blind Scout troop, all deaf Cub Scouts or only children with an intellectual disability etc.... These members are encouraged to participate in Scouting activities at the district, council, area, regional, and national levels along with other youth.

Many of these special Scouting units are located in special schools or centers that make the Scouting program part of their offer of leisure/education programs.

## Goal

Scout leaders are trained as Inclusion Mentors enabling them to organise inclusion of CWD and YWD in local scout groups in an effective manner.

## Outcomes

1. Rwanda Scouts Association is mainstreamed to accommodate Children and Youth with Disabilities
2. Rwanda Scouts Association reflects the population of Youth with Disabilities of approx. 5%. (Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda Fourth Population and Housing Census, Rwanda, 2012 Thematic Report Socio-economic characteristics of persons with disabilities January 2014)

### 3. Rwanda Scouts Association has a sustainable Akabe programme.

#### Target area and Beneficiaries

##### Targets :

- . The target area will be one District as pilot project Huye District in south province The number of people who will be trained 3000 boy scout and girls scouts.
- . The number of children and young people with a disability who will benefit (coming soon)

##### Beneficiaries:

- Scout leaders will receive training ()
- Children and Youth with disabilities will be able to join a scout group
- Parents of CwD and special centres will receive training on Rights of Children and why Scouting is important and useful during childhood/youth.

#### Approach

People with Disabilities are often excluded from Scouts activities in Rwanda and they are seen as less important. There is no group which accommodates Children with Disabilities and can demonstrate an inclusive approach. Inclusion training will be provided for Scout Leaders, special centres and parents of CwDs as follows:

- Convention on the Right of the Child, Rights of Children with Disabilities, especially 'right to play and recreation' and 'right to participate'
- Different disabilities
- Abilities of CwD (scout leader)
- Which care is needed? (scout leader)
- How to adjust an activity to include CwD? ( scout group leader)
- Activities for CwD who cannot be included (scout group leader)
- Awareness training in the community (parents of CWD)

#### Monitoring &Evaluation

The main project indicator will be % ratio of YWD/CWD include in District Scout groups

It is also useful to have one indicator for each outcome that shows how the outcome has been achieved.

Photos of inclusion scout activities in planned events; it is proof of the indicator. But others might be training reports, action plans, minutes of meetings where decisions are made about inclusion.

## Budget

No	Description of activities	Need	Responsable	Amount
1	Buy scout equipment	WhiteCanne,special wheelchair,ball to play with for games, cable,flyer and brochures.....		\$1000
2	Train scout leader	Flip chart ,marks,water,food,facilities .....		\$ 1000
3	Train scout in group	Training about inclusive for special need ,sign language...		\$ 2000
4	transport	Hire bus		\$ 1000
	total			\$ 5000

## Suitability

1. The pilot project will be evaluated and adjusted.
2. A national committee will be formed in charge of Akabe Rwanda
3. Akabe approach will be integrated into the RSA and delivered and monitored as part of the national RSA strategy and activities.
4. Lessons learnt and good practices will be collected
5. Scouts leaders of more groups will be trained (visiting the pilot project, training for new scout leaders)

RSA will manage the project through their program of youth programme and RSA will collaborate with district commissioner and scout district comity ,

RSA will collaborate with vso to for the report of implementation of planed activities through agreement between VSO and RSA

## Our current partners



Please contact us to find out more



**World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)**

World Scout Bureau Global Support Centre, Geneva  
Rue Henri-Christiné 5  
P.O. Box 91  
1211 Geneva 4 Plainpalais  
Switzerland  
Tel: (+4122) 705 10 10  
worldbureau@scout.org  
[www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org)



**Rwanda Scout Association(RSA)**

Gakuba Fidele, Executive Commissioner +250 788 303 211/  
[fidele.gakuba@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fidele.gakuba@yahoo.co.uk)  
Jean Claude Mbonigaba Technical Special Needs +250 788 39 04 93/  
[mboni5@hotmail.com](mailto:mboni5@hotmail.com)  
Nyarugenge District, Nyamirambo  
P.O. Box 4773.Kigali-Rwanda  
Registration Number: 151/01 just of 19/12/1968(RGB)



**World Connect, Inc**

209 Conover Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11231  
Email: [info@worldconnect-us.org](mailto:info@worldconnect-us.org)  
[www.worldconnect-us.org](http://www.worldconnect-us.org)