



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING BRIDGES TOWARDS  
INCLUSION IN GREATER  
KABALE DISTRICT.



**Sarah**  
TEAM LEADER

## TEAM LEADER

DSW was established in 2019 during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, when community engagement was particularly difficult due to restricted movements. Despite these obstacles, we persevered and achieved consistent progress by actively reaching out to families and enrolling members into our organization. We now seek your full cooperation in collaborating with families of children with disabilities, local communities, and leaders to collectively accomplish our shared objectives.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ➔

Disability Sign World (DSW) is excited to present our report, which covers our journey since our establishment in 2019. Within this report, you will gain insight into how DSW has positively impacted families, children, and individuals' perspectives on disability-related issues within their local communities. We take great pride in collaborating with many of you, and we are pleased to share the positive contributions that have been made within our diverse communities to promote inclusion.

## BACKGROUND

Disability Sign World (DSW) is non-profit organization working with Persons with Disabilities in Kabale District South western Uganda. It was started in 2019 and we are excited to present our 2020 report, which covers our journey since our establishment. Within this report, you will gain insight into how DSW has penetrated through thick reaching out to families of Children with disabilities who have been hidden, isolated and discriminated from the rest of the family and community members due to the nature of their disabilities.

Persistent discrimination against and exclusion of people with disabilities, in particular Children with disabilities has increased their vulnerability and also barriers to accessing health, educational services hence left behind in policy-planning, programme development, service delivery and data collection.

People with disabilities face stigma and discrimination in families and communities, lack transport to health-care facilities and are faced with poor attitudes of health workers while seeking health care and in other public places.

**Mission;** To dignify all persons with disabilities

**Vision;** Transferring lives of persons with disabilities into a better world.

**Values;**

Social justice

Human welfare

Participation and empowerment of communities

Supporting in education of children with disabilities.

**Objectives;**

To provide basic needs of life to Persons with Disabilities.

To promote, protect and defend human rights of Persons with Disabilities.

To promote and boost the capacity building of Persons with Disabilities.

To empower PWDs with skills that can enable them live independent lives

To improve the living conditions of PWDs through good hygiene and safe water.

To combat stigma and discrimination through education, advocacy and community engagement.



Engaging community members on issues concerning children with disabilities at Kikungiri.



## ORGANISATION ACTIVITIES

- Training and sensitization.
- Community meetings.
- Home visits.
- Education and skills training.
- Household support with income generating activities.
- Support with assistive devices.
- Promoting hygiene.

## TRAINING AND SESITIZATION

During Covid-19 period, when movements were severely restricted and the risk of illness was high, we began actively engaging with communities. Although this hindered the progress of our field work, we nonetheless endeavored to reach out to some families amidst the challenging circumstances.

We worked closely with various families and communities to locate and support children with disabilities who were often left alone at home while their family members were away. This effort was made possible with the assistance of community members who shared our concern for identifying and assisting these vulnerable children.

However, despite the challenges, 80% of the families we visited showed a positive response to our outreach efforts. Our activities took place in the sub-counties of Kyanamira, Buhara, Kitumba, Maziba and Kabale Municipality. Through our efforts, we successfully registered over 40 children with disabilities in our organization. This achievement bolstered our morale, encouraging us to press forward and achieve our established objectives.



Home visit to family of Keneth and Junior



Home and family visits

## ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

Once DSW officially commenced operations in 2019, it initiated the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) into the organization, concurrently with other activities. To date, more than 50 individuals, with a special focus on young people and children, have been incorporated. This ongoing enrollment process plays a crucial role in revealing the existence of PWDs who remain concealed within various households, unknown to the wider community.

Our enrollment procedures extend beyond the confines of our office premises, allowing us to adapt and reach out to PWDs within their own families, including those who have been marginalized and excluded by their families and communities.

We continue to enroll new members, particularly children with disabilities, as there remains a significant demand for our services. However, our capacity to provide support and meet their needs is restricted due to limited funding.





Enrollment o children with disabilities by DSW staff in different communities.

### WHAT WE INTEND TO DO

- Raise awareness on the existence of persons with Disabilities in their families and communities.
- To promote and encourage parents and guardians to enroll children with Disabilities for quality inclusive Education.
- To empower People with Disabilities through skilling and starting Income Generating Activities (IGAs)



- Improve hygiene of people with Disabilities through construction of water tanks to easily access clean water and massive sensitization on how to keep hygiene to guardians and parents in homes.
- To advocate for equal rights of People with Disabilities.
- To advocate for improved infrastructure to easy accessibility for PWDs.
- To mobilize for resource distribution to people with Disabilities.
- To raise esteem and restore lost hope for PWDs through routine home visits.
- To make referrals.



## CHALLENGES

- Limited movements due to Covid19.
- Stigma and discrimination to PWDs by community members.
- High expectations from people with Disabilities and their families
- Limited disclosure on the cause of disability which limits our engagement.
- Hard to reach areas which makes us incur a lot of costs to reach out to our communities.





## APPENDISES

TOGETHER for MORE, APART for LESS.







**Keep following and sharing our stories on all our social media pages;**

Twitter; @DisabilitySign | LinkedIn: Disability sign world

Facebook; Disability Sign World | Instagram; Disabilitysignworld

You tube; disabilitysignworld | Website; [www.disabilitysignworld.org](http://www.disabilitysignworld.org)

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