



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TOWARDS INCLUSION OF  
PWDs**

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 2023 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

Participation and empowerment of communities

Supporting in education of children with disabilities.



## ORGANISATION ACTIVITIES

- Trainings and sensitization meetings.
- Home visits
- Household support with income generating activities
- Support with assistive devices.
- Promoting hygiene
- Support in Education and Skilling.



### **One on one sessions with parents and guardians of CWDs at Kitumba subcounty.**

#### **TRAININGS AND MEETINGS.**

We have conducted training sessions for people with disabilities and their families. These sessions serve as a platform for sharing challenges, discussing plans, and addressing other related issues that can positively impact their lives. Typically, these trainings involve engagement with local leaders, political figures at various levels, and other influential individuals who can enlighten, educate, and sensitize our audience, as many PWDs often lack awareness about their human rights and other essential matters.



### **Training of families of Children with Disabilities (CWDs) at Vienna hotel Kabale town.**

**To note also**, every year we organize get-together party for our beneficiaries, where we carefully plan the agenda for the event. This day has consistently held a special place in the lives of Persons with Disabilities and their families. It provides an opportunity for different parents to connect with one another, share experiences, and grow stronger by realizing



#### **Get together party for DSW with its beneficiaries at Vienna hotel Kabale town.**

We have provided comprehensive support to Children with Disabilities, not just in social, cultural, economic, and financial aspects, but also with unwavering spiritual support. We actively encourage parents and guardians to fully involve these children in church activities, ensuring they receive all sacraments and fulfill any other requirements just like any other member of the congregation. In this vein, DSW successfully facilitated the baptism of Jeremiah, as well as the confirmation of David and Pretty. This accomplishment stands as a significant milestone for our organization, and we remain committed to inspiring other parents and guardians to follow a similar path of inclusion and support.



**Baptism and confirmation for Jeremiah, Sunday and Pretty.**

## FAMILY SUPPORT

Besides out patient care, we have kept ensured that families of people with disabilities which are normally living in poverty now celebrate Easter and Christmas like everyone else, providing them with food packages on these significant days.

Previously excluded from such celebrations, we aim to make these occasions meaningful for them by ensuring they have something to eat. This is done annually.





From 2022 onwards, we have also taken steps to enhance the living conditions of some of our beneficiaries, particularly by improving their sleeping quarters. It has come to our attention that many children with disabilities sleep in less sanitary environments compared to other children within their households. We have engaged in conversations with parents and, when necessary, provided bedding, as exemplified with Moreen, Patience, Junior, and Patricia.

## BEFORE

Patience's bed before.



## AFTER



**Beddings donated to Patience**

## CONSTRUCTION OF TOILET AND WATER TANK FOR PATIENCE.

In December 2023, we successfully completed the construction of a water tank and a toilet for Patience. The previous toilet was located approximately 50 meters away from her house in a challenging terrain, making it difficult for her to access it safely due to her mobility challenges. The project received invaluable support from UBU, greatly improving her mobility, hygiene and her daily life.

### The Previous toilet for Patience and her family



### New toilet and water tank constructed by DSW with support from UBU.eV



## 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 mobilize for resource distribution to people with Disabilities.
- To raise esteem and restore lost hope for PWDs through routine home visits.
- Referrals



## CHALLENGES

- Hard to reach areas which make us incur a lot of costs to reach out to our beneficiaries.
- Limited funds to meet the basic needs of people with Disabilities.
- High expectations from people with Disabilities and their families.
- Limited disclosure on the cause of disability which limits our engagement.
- Limited Government financial support towards uplifting the lives of people with Disabilities.
- Lack of enough special schools for Children with Disabilities to attend and the few which are there are expensive for them.



## WORD FROM THE TEAM LEADER

I am incredibly pleased and excited to witness the advancements of DSW. I can't overlook the profound positive impact we have made on the lives of children with disabilities, their families and communities in our working areas. I express my heartfelt gratitude to my team, local leaders, children, parents, guardians and the entire community. Without your collaboration, our achievements wouldn't be possible.

I urge everyone to embrace the responsibility of supporting individuals with disabilities, collaborating for the betterment of our communities and country at large.

Inclusion matters!!!!!!1



SARAH

## CONCLUSION

To parents and guardians of children with disabilities: We understand the challenges you face, including stigma, depression, financial hardships, and family issues while raising these children. Please don't give up on them; they need your support more than you may realize, and it's not their fault that they have a disability.

To local, political, church, and community leaders: Let's unite to advocate for the rights, lobby for change, and raise awareness about the existence of people with disabilities. Many of them are struggling because they lack voices to speak up on their behalf.

At Disability Sign World, we aim to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities, but financial limitations hinder our progress. We invite all well-wishers, funders, and the government to join us in supporting this cause.

Let's ALL come up and work together towards INCLUSION.

## TOGETHER FOR MORE, APART FOR LESS.





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