

# Rukungiri District Association of Persons with Disabilities (RAPD)



**Vision: Dignity for every person with disability where PWDs have better, independent and sustainable livelihoods.**

**Mission: Strengthening DPOs aiming at creating unified voice for PWDs for realization of their human rights and inclusion in social economic activities through support and advocacy.**

## HISTORY

Rukungiri District Association of Persons with Disability (RAPD) is a non-governmental organization formed in 1996 in Rukungiri District by persons with disabilities (PWD). It is structured at the district level as a National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU). It was formed with a purpose of coordinating all the individuals and groups of PWD in the district. The association focuses on improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities through creating awareness on human rights and HIV/AIDS among the PWDS and their caretakers, supporting income generating activities for PWDS, lobbying and advocating for the inclusion of PWDS in the government programs.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Economic empowerment of PWDs

Under this program, RAPD work hand in hand with Sub County and parish Disabled People Organizations (DPO) to implement small scale income generating activities targeting PWDS, such as animal husbandry projects (rearing cattle and goats), currently under this program RAPD is working with 30 DPOs in Rukungiri district, each group having an average of 30 members with disabilities. The program is supported by the ABILIS Foundation Finland and the Local government of Uganda.

### Achievements

27 people with disabilities each was given one female cow and currently they are rearing them. When the cow gives birth the first offspring is passed on to another PWD.



[www.fcde-isa.org](http://www.fcde-isa.org)

90 PWDs each received one female goat each. The beneficiaries are rearing the goats when the goat gives birth the first offspring is passed on to another PWD

#### Disability and HIV & AIDS

With support from the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) RAPD is working with HIV and AIDS service providers, local leaders and religious leaders to promote awareness about disability and HIV & AIDS. We want to ensure that PWDs access these services because they are twice as likely to acquire the disease as those without disability. Recent studies conducted in Uganda indicate that 38% of women and 35% of men with disability reported having had a sexually transmitted disease (STD) at one time, which should give rise for concern considering the high correlations among STDs and HIV/AIDS. Other studies show that women with disabilities are more vulnerable to sexual abuse and consequently transmission of HIV than non-disabled women due to vulnerability, stigmatization and people's prejudices. RAPD coordinates HIV Counseling and Test (HCT) outreaches targeting PWDs with the technical support from the government health workers.

#### Achievement

Sensitized 50 PWDs on the prevention of HIV and during the HIV counseling and testing outreach three PWDs were found positive and they were linked HIV and AIDS service provider for care and treatment.

30 have been trained on disability and HIV and AIDS, these people are now passed on the information to the disability community and the entire society.

PWDs have been Encouraged to test for HIV and AIDS and disclosure when found positive

The PWDs marginalized are now empowered in decision making about sex (us of condom

#### Capacity Building of Sub County Disability Committees and DPOs

Under this program, RAPD builds the capacity of disability committees both at district, sub-county, Parishes and the disability people organizations in all parts of Rukungiri district. The disability leaders are trained on the rights of PWDs and advocacy, financial management and good governance with support from NUDIPU and the central government of Uganda.

#### Achievements

The DPOs have been trained on the dynamic of leadership to enable them rule their organization effectively and their lobbying skills have been strengthened.

Rehabilitation

RAPD lobby for assistive devices/appliances for people with physical disabilities. The appliances are provided to PWDs that are registered with the associations and the DPOs.

Achievements

Linking PWDs to hospitals for treatment

## CHALLENGES

The organization lacks technical staff that can support them in grant preparation.

