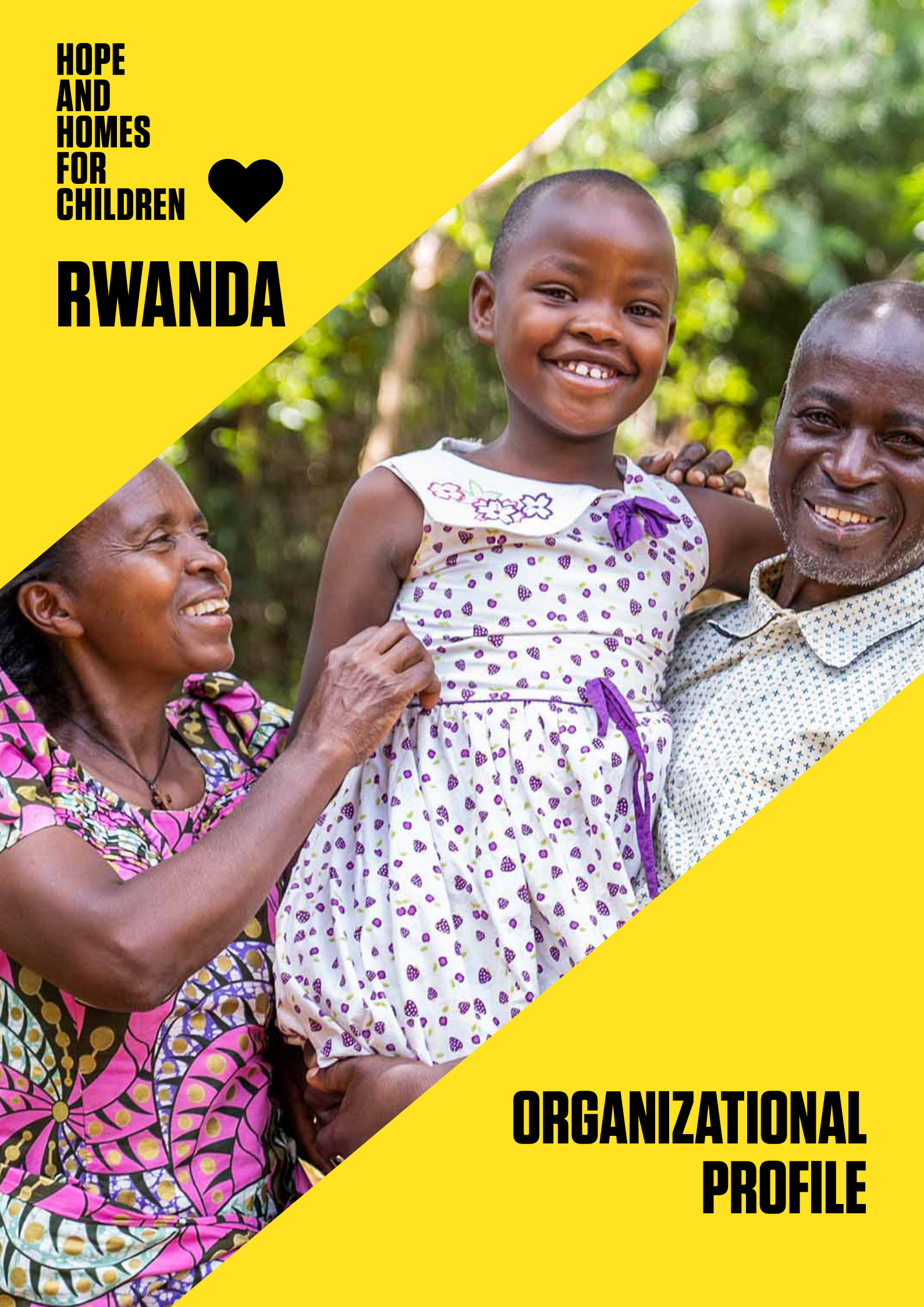


**HOPE  
AND  
HOMES  
FOR  
CHILDREN**



**RWANDA**



**ORGANIZATIONAL  
PROFILE**

A young boy with short dark hair is shown in profile, looking down at a stack of papers or a book he is holding. He is wearing a dark jacket over a white shirt with a purple patterned bowtie. The background is dark, and there are large yellow diagonal shapes in the top right and bottom left corners. The text 'WE ARE HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN RWANDA!' is written in bold yellow capital letters across the middle of the image.

**WE ARE  
HOPE AND  
HOMES FOR  
CHILDREN  
RWANDA!**



# WHO WE ARE

Hope and Homes for Children is an international organization recognized globally for its expertise in the field of Deinstitutionalization by placing children including children with disabilities from institutions/orphanages into families, and family-based alternative care and supporting children to remain with their loving, caring, stable families, and working with governments to tackle the root causes of family breakdown/family separation.

Institutionals/orphanages are neither necessary nor suitable for child care. Our experience confirms what various researches have revealed; institution care is harmful to children.

Hope and Homes for Children has gained massive experience in supporting governments to build/strengthen child protection systems capable to address a range of child protection concerns (child neglect, child abuse, child labor, child exploitation, child trafficking ...)

We work to ensure that all children have the chance to grow up in the love of a family.

# OUR VISION

A world in which children no longer suffer institutional care.

# OUR MISSION

To be the catalyst for the global elimination of institutional care for children.

# OUR VALUES

Excellence, courage, and integrity



# OUR HISTORY

Hope and Homes for Children was started in 1994 by a British retired army officer, Mark Cook, and his wife Caroline Cook, after seeing children struggling to survive in Sarajevo's main orphanage during the Bosnian War. He wanted to give them Hope- Hence Hope and Homes for Children.

Hope and Homes for Children started operating in Rwanda in 2002, supporting three categories of families: children-headed households, frail grandparents, and HIV positive single-parent headed households. These families were supported via ACTIVE family support involving building homes, financial assistance in household items, school, health fees, and support families to build relationships among family members.

Since 2010, Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda supported the Government of Rwanda in the closure of institutions/orphanages around the country and in the development of the National child care reform

that tackles family separation's root causes and provides family-based alternative care for children whose separation cannot be prevented or the alternative care is in the best interest of the child.

From 2018, in partnership with National Council for Persons with Disabilities and the National Child Development Agency, Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda started to implement the disability-Inclusive child care reform.

Today, Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda is supporting children with disabilities to transition from orphanages to family-based care and supports their families to become more resilient.

Furthermore, Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda builds the resilience of families at risk of separation and those already in crisis to become more functional and keep their children safe.

## CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE

In its early stages, Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda supported families of children-headed households, frail grandparents, and HIV positive single-parent headed households. Currently, Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda supports children to transition from orphanages to families including children with disabilities, in partnership with National Child Development Agency and National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

## CHILDREN IN VULNERABLE FAMILIES

Hope and Homes for Children strengthens families especially those of children with disabilities to become more independent and self-sufficient with the objective of tackling the root causes of family separation and child institutionalization. To achieve this, Hope and Homes for children uses the Active family support model to directly support these families.

## TEEN MOTHERS

Hope and Homes for children Rwanda is implementing a project with teen mothers in Kicukiro District. The support provided to teen mothers varies from counseling, family mediation sessions, restoring broken relationships with their parents, financial support to start small income-generating activities, and skills development in marketable trades (tailoring, hairdressing, and mechanics) of their choice and any other intervention inspired by individual aspirations.

## CARELEAVERS

Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda supports a number of careleavers' initiatives. This is to increase their participation in all matters that concern them and promote the possibilities to be mainstreamed in all development discussions. It is important to note that orphanages do not prepare their residents (children/young adults) for independent living skills or community life.

# OUR TARGET GROUPS





**WE KEEP FAMILIES  
TOGETHER!**

**WE REUNITE  
FAMILIES!**

# OUR WORK

## We Support vulnerable families

We support vulnerable families to remain together and become resilient. We use the Active family support model, a holistic family-focused approach, which implies Individual work with each targeted family and each family member by providing support across five well-being domains: living conditions, family and social relationships, education, health, and household economy following a comprehensive family assessment to address the needs building on the existing strengths of families.

## We create Community Hubs

Community hubs are child-friendly community-based resource centers designed to serve and empower children, parents, and communities through a range of diversified services namely; early childhood development, educational support for youth and adult literacy, nutrition, reproductive health, counseling, occupational therapy, special need sessions, physiotherapy, community-based groups, clubs, and peer support groups. Community Hubs target vulnerable children and families, such as children at risk of separation. This model received the Larissa Award from the African Child Policy Forum of the Community Hub Model as a recognition and encouragement for exemplary initiatives for the well-being of children.

## Community Development Network

Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda supported the establishment of Community Development Networks (CDN) to strengthen existing child protection structures. This is a forum of local leaders, civil society organizations, NGOs, school representatives, hospital and health centers, police, army, NCD Agency, NCPD, RIB, churches, and other organizations that work in child protection at the district and sector level. The forum ensures better coordination of all service providers for the effective protection of all children against abandonment, neglect, exploitation, abuse, and other child protection concerns. The Government requested a scale up of CDN across the country.

## SMS Technology

SMS Technology is a digital platform that is used to advocate or to inform about the concerns/challenges of persons with disabilities to local leaders. SMS Technology is contribute to identifying far-to-reach persons with disabilities (including hidden ones, locked in houses) and referring them to appropriate services at District or National level and hence ensuring no one is left behind. It helps to build a centralized database of Persons with disabilities' needs that may inform future intervention.

SMS Technology was got the First place award in INNOVATE 4 Disability inclusion Hackathon by the Rwanda Information Society Authority recognizing our SMS Technology model as an effective and efficient tool for early identification, support, and reporting issues of persons with Disabilities.

SMS Technology was piloted in three districts; Kicukiro, Gatsibo, and Kamonyi Districts. The need to scale up the SMS Technology was expressed in a number of avenues.

## We initiate Community-based Groups

Community-based groups' main role is to enhance social cohesion, mutual support, and collective actions among community members to address individual families and shared challenges. Trained community volunteers play a great role to create groups and follow up of the progress and well-functioning of created groups.

### It requires an entire village to raise a child.

With regards to Hope and Homes for children, community-based groups have contributed to keeping families together and maintaining children in the community. Hope and Homes for Children provide capacity building to Community Volunteers who form disability-inclusive groups at the village level including playgroups, income-generating activity groups, nutrition groups, peer support groups, and farmer field school groups. Community volunteers plays a great role to create and manage the created groups.

## We build new families

Hope and Homes for Children as an organization that strives to see every child enjoying the warmth and love of the family environment, supports children without parental care to regain this right through developing family alternative care options for those whose prevention of separation or reintegration is not possible or recommendable.

Family-based alternative care refers to formal arrangements where a child is cared for, in form of family-based care in the best interest of the child. Keeping children with their biological families is our priority but as it is not always achievable for every child, Hope and Homes for Children has supported the development of other family-based options that are; kinship care, foster care (Foster care has been the most effective gatekeeping service to end the society's reliance on institutions for abandoned babies), guardianship, and adoption.

## We restitute children's rights to the families and repurpose orphanages

The process of closing orphanages is a result of the gradual placement of individual children into families. The process of each individual child is based on rigorous case management led by dedicated and skillful social workers and psychologists throughout the following steps; individual child assessment, care plan, family tracing, child and family preparation, placement, post-placement, and graduation.

The orphanage resources are redirected to shift from residential to daycare services focusing on improving the well-being of children (including children with disabilities) and their families.





## National Survey of Institutions for Children in Rwanda

November 2012



Hope & Homes for Children



Republic of Rwanda  
Ministry of Local Government



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITIES

## National Survey of Residential Centres for Children with Disabilities in Rwanda

2021



hope and homes



Republic of Rwanda  
Ministry of Local Government



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITIES

## Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study on children with disabilities living in families and institutions in Rwanda

2021



hope and homes  
for children



# RESEARCHES

## National Survey of institutions for children in Rwanda (MIGEPROF, HHC 2012)

This study was aiming at obtaining an accurate overview of the institutional system in Rwanda in 2012 and to inform future policy.

## KAP study Rwanda (NCPD, NCDA, HHC 2021)

The study is premised on the view that the knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding attributes and conceptualization of CWD in their families and communities vis-à-vis institutional care for CWD, are crucial determinants of barriers/enablers of full and meaningful integration of CWD into community life in Rwanda.

## National Survey of Residential Centres for Children with Disabilities in Rwanda (NCPD, NCDA, HHC 2021)

The survey aimed at gathering comprehensive and disaggregated data related to residents' characteristics, staff profile, and the minimum standards for the centres.

## Good practice guide on Community Development Networks in Rwanda (HHC 2021)

This guide provides an overview of CDNs including definition, function and the situation of the child care system before CDNs. It also describes the general impact of CDNs through findings from key evaluation questions on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of CDNs, as well as changes brought about by CDNs in deinstitutionalisation (DI), encountered challenges, best practices, and recommendations.

## Impact of Community Development Networks in Rwanda (HHC 2021)

This research outlines a revised composition, structure, roles and responsibilities of CDNs, CDN function in DI and child care reform, areas of focus to establish/strengthen a CDN, as well as success factors, challenges, lessons learnt and generated recommendations for people/organizations involved in DI program implementation as well as those involved in policy formulation.

## Document model of closure of institutions for children with disabilities in Rwanda (HHC 2021)

This report firstly outlines the effects of both institutional care and DI, then the 5 key steps – engagement, assessment, service design and development, transition and M&E – that serve as an effective blueprint for a successful DI process of children and young adults with disabilities. Gaps and challenges are also highlighted as well as mitigation measures in the DI process and finally recommendations.



# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

## 1 16 ORPHANAGES

Hope and Homes for children Rwanda has supported the repurpose of 16 institutions/Orphanages including centers for children with disabilities; 1352 children (including 126 children with Disabilities) were reintegrated in families or placed into family-based care.

## 2 170,000 CHILDREN

Over these past 10 years, Hope and Homes for Children programs has impacted around 170,000 children including around 5000 children with disabilities across the country.

## 3 30 CDNs

Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda has supported the establishment and the operationalization of 30 Community development networks in all 30 districts of Rwanda, and 96 sectors with high proportion of families in crisis or with an orphanage.

## 4 250 TEEN MOTHERS

Hope and Homes for children is supporting 250 teen mothers in Kicukiro District, they are supported to overcome multiple and complex life challenges.

## 5 10 COMMUNITY HUBS

Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda supported building 10 community hubs across the country, all the 10 Community Hubs have ECD services, and 2 among them has been designed to improve the well-being of children with disabilities.

## 6 68 SOCIAL WORKERS & PSYCHOLOGISTS

Over the last ten years, Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda has been at the frontline of planning and implementing the child care reform and assisted to build a strong social work force through the development of a De-Institutionalization curriculum, trainings, and technical supervision of government staff (68 Social workers and Psychologists.)

## 7 10,000 PERSONS TRAINED

Over 10,000 Persons were trained over 10 years on child care reform in and outside Rwanda.

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & LEARNING EXCHANGES

Hope and Homes for children Rwanda has hosted Learning exchanges or has provided technical assistance to partners from different countries; **Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Sudan & India.**

## DONORS



## PARTNERS



**MINALOC  
MIGEPROF  
NCD AGENCY  
NCPD  
GMO, RGB  
Districts**

## AWARDS

SMS Technology got the **First place award in INNOVATE 4 Disability inclusion Hackathon** by the Rwanda Information Society Authority.

Award of Appreciation from NCPD for the support provided to promote the **wellbeing of persons with Disabilities.**

Certificate of Recognition from MIGEPROF acknowledging the contribution, significant services, and **partnership in Advancing Child Rights**

The 2014 LARISSA Award child Deprivation and vulnerability In Africa for **Outstanding Service in Addressing Child Deprivation and Vulnerability in Africa**

## COMMUNICATION

Hope and Homes for Children recognizes the role of media and resource centers to change knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of the General public towards the Reintegration of children from orphanages to families, including children with disabilities.



**For National Audience**

**Better Care Network**

**For global Audience**

## ADVOCACY & PROGRAMMATIC PARTNERSHIPS

-Founding member of Tranform Alliance Africa



-Member of Network of International NonGovernment Organizations

-Member of Disability Coordination Forum

-Partner of Coalition "UMWANA KU ISONGA"



# HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN



- 📍 605, Kigali-Rwanda
- ☎ +250 788 383 222
- ✉ info@hhcrwanda.org
- 🐦 @HopeandHomesRW
- 📺 Hope and Homes for Children-Rwanda
- 📘 Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda
- 🌐 www.hopeandhomes.org

