Inclusive Behavior
Changes in participants’ behavior towards children with disabilities was mixed and inconclusive. However, some positive behaviors were reported and included inviting children with disabilities into school games. Some parents also improved their caregiving behaviors, including seeking medical care for child survivors of sexual violence, though many were still reluctant to report the abuse.

Knowledge and Attitudes
As a result of the intervention, many children, parents, and community members acquired new knowledge about disabilities, sexual violence, and child protection. There was increased awareness that children with disabilities should be treated the same as those without. Program participants also learned where and how to report incidents of sexual violence.

Social Norms
Medical and legal service providers’ awareness of the health needs of children with disabilities increased, although it is unclear whether this led to improved care. Despite an increase in community’s knowledge, there was no indication of sustained attitude and behavior change. The belief that children with disabilities are a burden persisted.
PROGRAM DETAILS

Using a Community-Based Rehabilitation approach, the Ubuntu Care Project empowers children to become key actors in their own protection and supports other stakeholders to create a safe protective environment. The intervention works at six levels, though the final three were not included in the current study:

- **Children** are empowered with information, education, and opportunities to participate in society and decision-making processes, especially those with disabilities.

- **Parents** receive home visits from community peer educators for positive parenting training and receive information on the rights of children with disabilities.

- **School teachers and directors** receive information about child protection and sexual violence as well as the psychological and physical needs of children with disabilities.

- **Medical and legal service practitioners** are trained on strategies for providing coordinated care to child victims.

- **The broader community** is sensitized on child protection, sexual violence against children, and disability issues through awareness-raising campaigns.

- **Policy advocates** are encouraged to promote the incorporation of disability rights and child protection into national laws and policies.

STUDY DETAILS

A mixed-method approach using both qualitative and quantitative methods was used. A quasi-experimental design was used with a one group pretest-posttest design because other designs such as an RCT would not be appropriate for this population. Because of a lack of quantitative data, analysis and results relied heavily on qualitative data, using triangulation to support conclusions.

TARGET POPULATION

Children with disabilities, their families, and community members.

CONTACT

Melanie Geiser
Country Director
Humanity & Inclusion

m.geiser@hi.org
www.hi-rwanda.org

LEARN MORE

Read more about this project and its findings at theevaluationfund.org

STRENGTHEN THE FIELD

Visit this project on our website where you can easily share it with your networks and partners.