

# Annual Report 2025

BRIDGES TO INCLUSION

# A message from our chairperson

Dear friends,

I am pleased to share the 2025 Annual Report of Association Nganinka. In our second year of operation, **we strengthened our systems, deepened our impact, and refined our strategy** to better serve children with disabilities.

This year, we completed the distribution of 50 locally made paediatric wheelchairs and built strong partnerships with three specialised centres. These collaborations shaped our revised mobility approach, meeting urgent needs through imported wheelchairs while investing in locally assembled and future fully local models.

A major milestone was the adoption of our **Five-Year Strategic Plan (2026–2030**), which focuses on **strengthening governance, expanding equitable access to quality mobility and health services, and promoting social inclusion.** Our participation in Opportunity Collaboration 2025 further expanded our visibility and partnerships within a global community committed to inclusion.

I extend my sincere thanks to all partners and supporters. Together, we continue advancing a future **where every child with a disability has access to mobility, dignity, and opportunity.**

**Arlette Irankunda**
**Chairperson**





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# Meet our board



### Arlette Irankunda, chairperson

Arlette is  a physioterapist, founder  and CEO of Care Connect Physiotherapy, a physiotherapy clinic in Bujumbura.
She holds a Master degree in Neurological Physiotherapy. She is an OBAMA Foundation Leader 2025 and YALI Regional East Africa Alumni.



### Dr Tania Gahama Ineza, deputy chairperson

Dr Tania is a family physician, author and Mandela Washington Fellow. She has founded and led multiples grassroots organisations working in health and advocacy. She is the mother of Nganinka, an energetic daughter who lives with a disability and who inspired the name of our organisation.

### Gilbert Bizimungu, executive advisor



Gilbert is the Coordinator of the Network of Centers for Disabled Persons in Burundi (RCPHB), a key organization in the promotion and defense of the rights of people with disabilities in Burundi.

### Hervé Mbonizana, treasurer



Hervé is an experienced businessman serving as trasure, overseeing finances, budgeting, and financial accountability.



### Dr Huguette Irambona, executive secretary

Dr Huguette is among the few specialists in Physical and rehabilitation medecine who works in Burundi.

# Meet our board

### Déo Ndayishimiye,member



Déo is a physiotherapist and CEO of Centre Professionel de Kinesithérapie (C.P.Kiné)

### Pr Lévi Kandeke, member



Pr. Lévi is an opthalmologist, national focal person for eye health, founder and CEO of Clinique de l'Oeil

### Gratia A. Ndikumana, member



Gratia is an author and philantrophist with a keen interest in childhood

### Dr Félicien Bivahagumye, member



Dr. Félicien is a paediatrician, head of Neonatology Unity at Kamenge Military Hospital

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# About us

**Bridges to inclusion** is a non-profit organisation committed to improving the lives of children with disabilities through access to appropriate mobility solutions.

Our work goes beyond the provision of wheelchairs. We also engage in **advocacy, systems strengthening, and partnerships** to ensure that children with disabilities are visible, included, and supported to reach their full potential.



# Program highlight

In 2025, Association Nganinka completed the **first phase of its mobility programme** by working with a local manufacturer to produce and distribute **50 paediatric wheelchairs** for children with disabilities.

Through close collaboration with three specialised centres, we identified children in need, ensured proper fitting, and coordinated distribution.



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# Key wins



Provided direct mobility support to 50 children

Established partnerships with three specialised local centres for children with disabilities

Improved understanding of contextual needs related to paediatric mobility

# Lessons learned

While locally made wheelchairs offer valuable benefits in terms of local ownership and capacity development, several challenges were identified:

- **Limited quality assurance and variability in durability**
- **Scarcity of specific materials on the local market**
- **Higher production costs due to material shortages**

These lessons reinforced a critical reality:

**children cannot wait.**

Delays in mobility support directly affect education, health, and social participation.



# A Refined and responsive mobility strategy

Building on these insights, Association Nganinka adopted a revised, multi-layered approach to ensure wheelchair availability **today**, while investing in long-term sustainability.



## 1 Adressing immediate needs

To respond to urgent mobility needs, Association Nganinka **will temporarily rely on imported paediatric wheelchairs**, **ensuring that no child is left without support.** We are working closely with partners to secure quality-assured wheelchairs and **avoid delays that impact development, education, and well-being.** As a first step, **we imported an initial batch of six paediatric wheelchairs.** Following positive user and partner feedback, **we expanded this effort by importing 28 additional paediatric wheelchairs, expected to arrive in early 2026.**



## 2 Building a locally assembled solution

In parallel, we are planning to develop a locally assembled wheelchair model that enables:
**Personalisation to each child's unique needs, easier local repairs and adjustments, reduced long-term cost of ownership**
This model combines locally available materials with externally sourced components that are not yet manufactured in the local market. This approach strengthens local capacity while maintaining quality and functionality.



## 3 Investing in long term sustainability

For long-term impact, Association Nganinka **remains committed to developing its own fully local wheelchair prototype.**
Our goal is that **within five years, we will be able to produce a high-quality, fully locally made paediatric wheelchair that is affordable, durable, and adapted to local realities.**

# Building Strong Foundations

## Organisational Strengthening

As part of its second year, Association Nganinka prioritised institutional growth to support high-quality programming and responsible expansion.
During the year, we developed:

- **a five-year strategic plan outlining our vision, mission, values, and priorities**
- **a comprehensive procedures and operations manual**
- **refreshed mission and values to reflect our evolving work**
- **strengthened governance and accountability mechanisms**

These efforts provide the structure required to steward partnerships, funding, and impact.

# Strategic focus areas for the next five years (2026-2030)



1

## Strengthening Governance and Institutional Sustainability

- Improve governance structures and leadership
- Strengthen coordination and partnerships
- Ensure effective planning, monitoring, and evaluation

2

## Ensuring Quality Health and Support Services

- Promote equitable access to quality health and mobility services for children with disabilities

3

## Promoting Social Inclusion and Community Participation

- Promote inclusive child health and disability awareness
- Address stigma and socio-cultural barriers affecting children with disabilities

# Networking, learning, and global engagement

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As part of our second year's efforts to expand visibility and partnerships, our **Chairperson participated in Opportunity Collaboration in Portugal** and was selected for the **prestigious Obama Foundation Leaders Program. These milestones strengthened Nganinka's global presence and highlighted our growing role in disability inclusion.**

Through these engagements, we were able to:

- **connect with global actors in disability and social innovation**
- **learn from international best practices**
- **explore potential partnerships**
- **share the realities faced by children with disabilities in Burundi**

Going forward, we aim to **expand participation in regional and international forums to enhance visibility, collaboration, and resource mobilisation.**

# Finances 2025

In 2025, Bridges to Inclusion raised **USD 30,000**, largely through individual donations. These funds supported our mobility programme and organisational strengthening efforts.

Guided by our **Five-Year Strategic Plan**, we aim to grow and diversify our funding base by building partnerships with foundations, institutions, and corporate supporters to ensure long-term sustainability and greater impact for children with disabilities

| **Expenses** | **Total in USD** |
|---|---|
| Programme | 20,400 |
| Administration | 7,950 |
| Balance cash to cash equivalents | 1,650 |
| **Total** | 30,000 |
| **Revenue** | **Total in USD** |
| Individuals donations | 30,000 |
| **Total** | 30,000 |

# SDG in our work













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# Looking ahead

2025 marked a major step for Association Nganinka, **strengthening systems, strategy, and commitment to inclusive mobility.**

Together with our partners, we move forward ensuring **every child with a disability in Burundi has dignity and opportunity.**

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48, Avenue Kunkiko, Rohero
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www.bridgestoinclusion.bi
contact@bridgestoinclusion.bi

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