

Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA)

Newsletter December, 2023



Welcome to our December Newsletter that highlights our activities of the year 2023!.

Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (**RATA**) is a Local NGO operating in Rwanda legally registered under the law No 522/RGB/NGO/LP/10/2019. Its vision is to contribute to a society where persons with disabilities are able to study in order to live independently through the use of Assistive Technology.



Rene William Ngabo
Executive Director of RATA

"Getting to know more about our beneficiaries while understanding their needs, this makes us love more our job and hungry to make a significant impact in our community. Assistive Technology is one of the primary needs of a person with a disability and it's good to know that what we're doing will change positively someone's life."

Can you imagine a visually impaired coding?

Since April 2023 up to July 2023, RATA implemented a pilot project where 5 visually impaired youth who were best performers in our past trainings on ICT, were trained on how to code. The objective of the training was to see how we can have persons with disabilities who will contribute in the future, in the design of local made assistive technology tools, mostly software applications that meet their needs and who can pursue the IT career.



Lessons on HTML 5, CSS, Java script, Flutter and Dart were covered and the participants were able to make simple websites and a simple mobile app at the end of the training.

The trial project was successful and RATA plans to extend it in the near future.

In collaboration with GIZ Rwanda-DSSD, since July 2023 up to December 2023 RATA trained 40 persons with visual impairments located in Musanze and Rubavu districts on basic digital literacy so that they can be able to access Irembo online services, Use of MoMo Money transfer and MoCash among others.



Last 2 months, RATA started a continuous learning program where our staff, volunteers and others who want to join the lessons on Assistive Technology, Project Management , M&E.. commit themselves to learn 4 hours per week. We were inspired to start this program after being part of a similar program of one year under Segal family foundation.



In line with the global report on Assistive Technology by WHO and UNICEF, 2022 that highlighted the lack of trained assistive technologists mostly in developing countries, RATA tackled on this challenge where we partnered with Assistive Technology Australia and Enable Ireland organizations for empowering our staff on Assistive Technology. As a result one of our staff Charles Birekeraho completed this year the Assistive Technology mentoring course of 6 months given by Assistive Technology Australia.

Testimonies and Success Stories

“ After participating in the training on how to code provided by RATA, I felt confident to be able to pursue a career in IT.
I was lucky to be able to attend it.”

Perlin MUJYAMBERE



“I attended RATA training on coding since April 2023 where I learnt lessons on HTML 5, CSS, Java Script and Flutter. This showed me that as a visually impaired lady it's possible to pursue a career in IT.”

YISABIRAGUHA Immaculee



Crescence one of the trainees beneficiaries affirm that they didn't even know a small (simple) telephone can be linked to bank account. But after receiving trainings they were then able to connect with their banks via telephone. Now she can use mobile money and MoCash services. After being trained they committed to no longer keep their small money at home.

After receiving the training the 10 out of 20 participants from Rubavu district decided to buy smart phones to be used in their daily life. Applying all they have learned



Jeannette, one of the Participants committed to use her telephone in a productive way like doing money transfer businesses, and advertising her products using social Medias.

What next?

- 👉 In February 2024, Accessible free online courses on Assistive Technology will be introduced on our website, to make sure many people in Rwanda are aware enough of the importance of Assistive Technology in the lives of persons with disabilities.
- 👉 After a careful review of our past projects alongside with our beneficiaries, RATA decided in the future to create a hub which will be an Inclusive educational platform for technology designed for persons with disabilities and a resource center for Assistive Technology.
- 👉 The hub will also serve as a platform where persons with disabilities will grow in tech while learning, collaborating, connecting and innovating their local and affordable Assistive Technologies that meet their needs.

To support this endeavor you can click on this link

👉 <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/coding-for-the-visually-impaired/>

Thank you again for your continued support!

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