



Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA)

Newsletter ,December 2022

Introduction

Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA) is a local non-governmental organization operating in Rwanda under the law N 0 552/RGB/NGO/LP/10/2019 founded on 4th January 2018 to foster Assistive technology in Rwanda after realizing that there's a gap for Persons with disabilities in Rwanda, in accessing Assistive Technology.

RATA was respectively recommended and recognized by Rwanda Education Board (REB) on 5th May 2018 and by the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) on 6th June 2018. Its headquarters is located at Remera-Gasabo, KG 626 ST 9.



What's Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology is a device, software program, item, or product system used by individuals with disabilities in order to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible for them.



"Like elsewhere, last 2 years were challenging to us where we did very few activities, but this year 2022 we are happy for the small achievements so far towards our vision.

The empathy and commitment have been restored in us and we are now more impact oriented than ever.

Thank you everyone who is continuously being supportive in what we do. We are deeply grateful for your contribution. "

Rene William Ngabo

Executive Director of Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA)

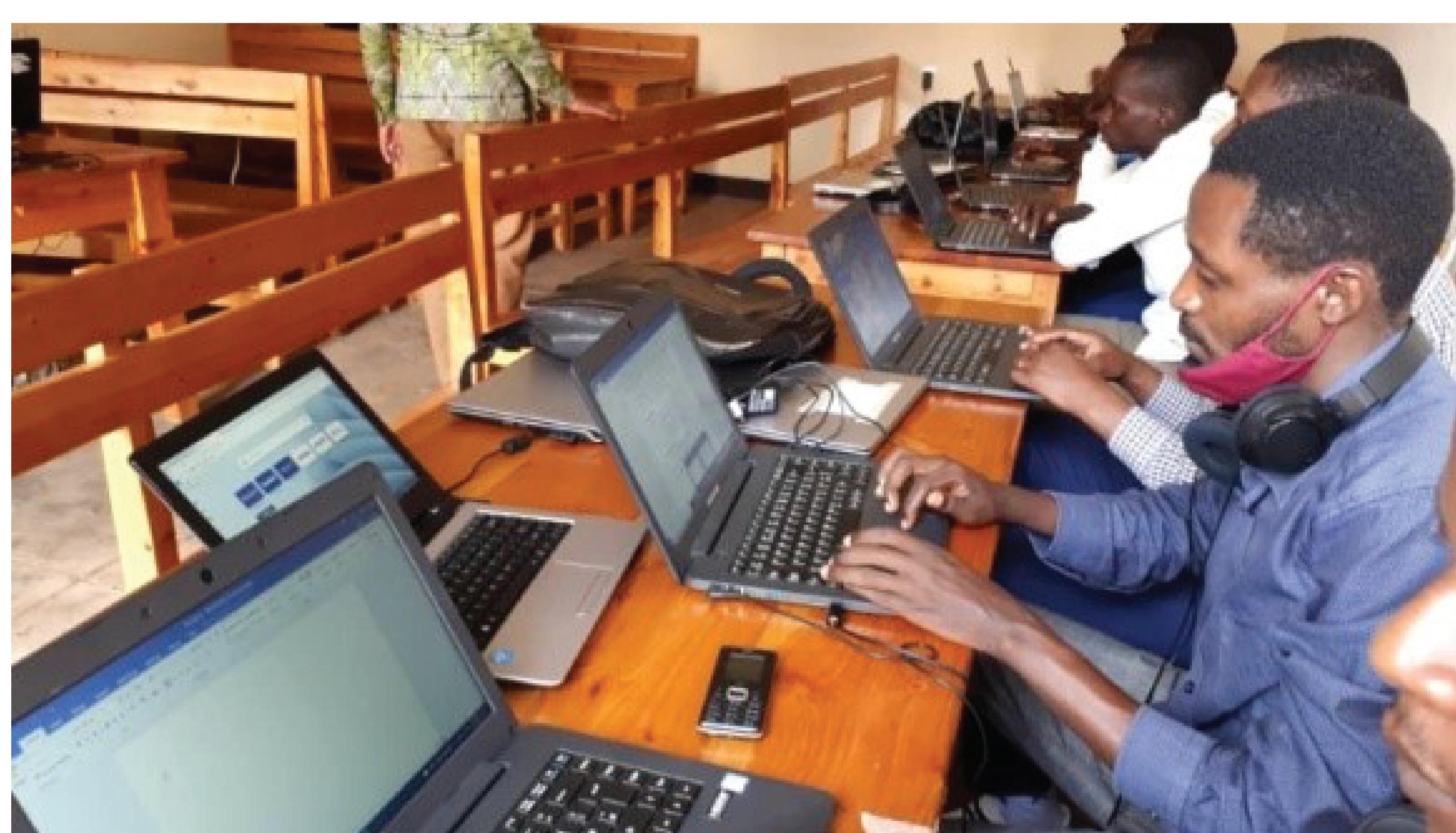
The last 8 months have been nothing short of incredible as we got to learn, to contribute and to expand our network.



In March 2022, RATA was selected to be part of Social Impact Incubator-Rwanda program.

A program of Segal family Foundation which identifies and nurture local champions, where Lessons and practices on Financial Management, Monitoring and Evaluation for Project Management, Strategic Planning -and Communication are covered in 7 months.

In partnership with HVP Gatagara- Rwamagana School for the visually impaired, Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA) since March 2022 up to August 2022 conducted a training for teachers under a pilot project called: “ **Accessible Digital Content for Persons with Disabilities in Education** “ where teachers were trained on how to prepare accessible digital content for students with visual impairments.

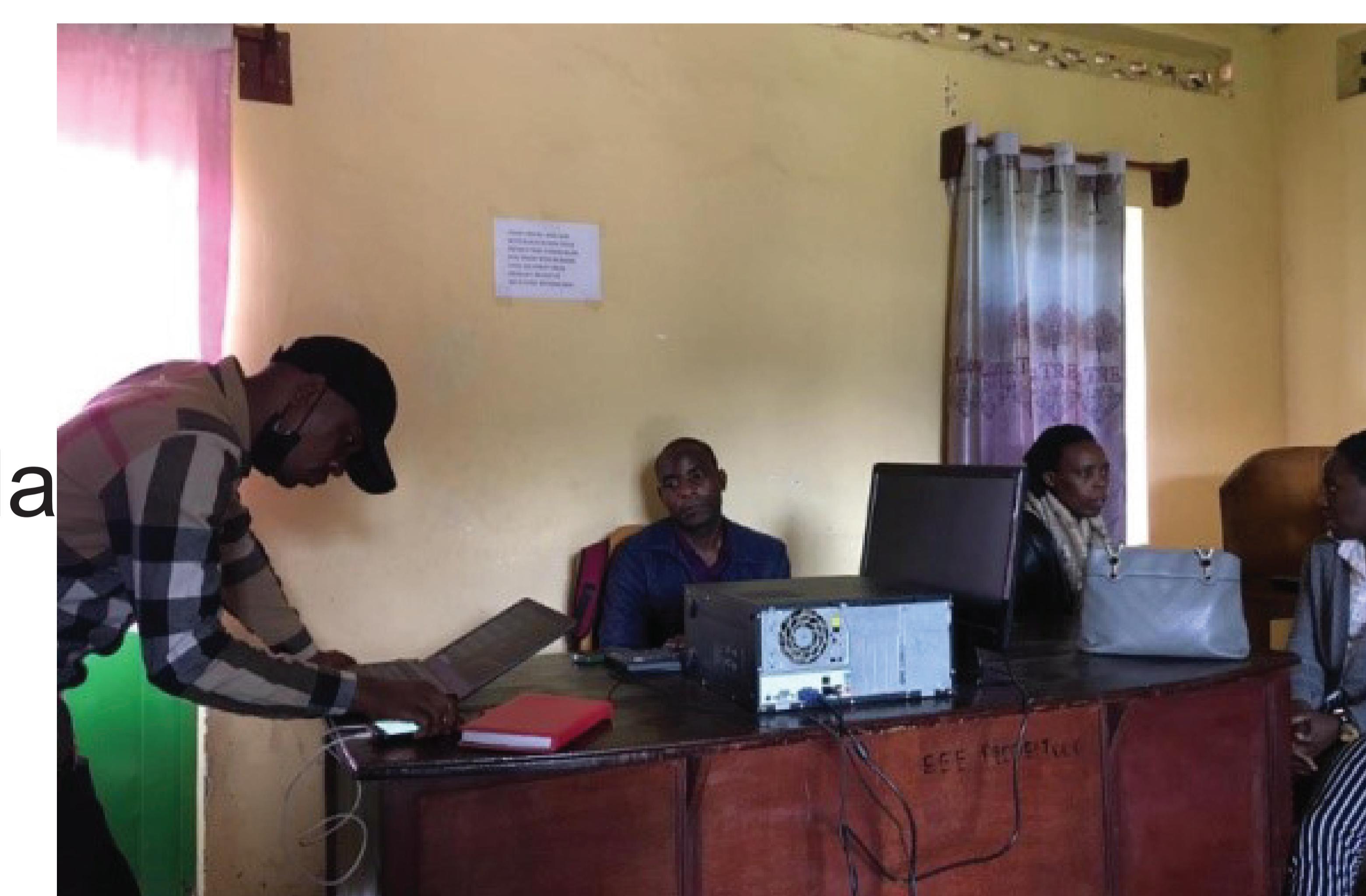


Quality education begins with quality educators (Unknown)

In collaboration with University of Rwanda-Nyagatare Campus, Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA) since August 2022 up to October 2022 has trained resource room facilitators on Assistive Technology who were supposed to support students with disabilities at the university to learn effectively through the use of Assistive Technology after the training.



In September 2022, RATA has partnered with Nyabihu Deaf School, a special school for the deaf located in the Western Province of Rwanda Technology in the learning of students with hearing impairments.



This year 2022, RATA has partnered with Assistive Technology Australia Organization from Australia and Enable Ireland Organization from Ireland where the 2 organizations trained and mentored RATA staff on Assistive Technology.



RATA was visited by Rwanda Television at its office on 24th May 2022 to discuss on the importance of Assistive Technology in the lives of persons with disabilities.
<https://www.rba.co.rw/video?id=9416>



TESTIMONIES


“I am a Geography and History teacher at HVP GATAGARA-Rwamagana. We had particular difficulties while teaching using maps and images. In this training, I have acquired the skills that help to deal with that. I am now confident that I can teach my students without these challenges. Also, notes used to be printed poorly without a title, but due to the skills that I now possess, Word documents will be published well and quickly converted to Braille.”
-Agripine Mutegwaraba



"I'm very grateful for the skills I gained during RATA training. As a language teacher, I learned how to make comprehension texts more accessible for my students by turning them into audio recordings. Additionally, I also developed skills on how to confidently create school materials and resources that students with visual impairments will find easy to use.

Emmanuel Ndayisenga
Teacher at HVP Gatagara Rwamagana



"In 2019, I was fortunate to participate in a training on Assistive Technology conducted by RATA which inspired me to establish an Assistive Technology club at the University of Rwanda- Huye Campus this year. I think this club will help students with disabilities at our campus who need such technologies"

-Perlin Mujyambere
Student at University of Rwanda – Huye Campus



"As a resource room facilitator at University of Rwanda-Nyagatare Campus, I often faced challenges while facilitating students with disabilities like how to make **accessible documents, using braille displays, victor readers, braille embossers,...** but after attending RATA training on Assistive Technology, I am now able to overcome such challenges"

-Gerard Maniraguha



"I used to face difficulties when teaching French since my students struggled to read accents. But grateful for this training as we were exposed to a software called DBT, which seamlessly turns texts in French into audio. This is then transmitted to Orbit 23 device, where the students can then read the texts with accents added."

-Francois Nkurunziza
-Teacher at HVP Gatagara-Rwamagana

What's Next?

After a careful revision of our work alongside with our beneficiaries , RATA has decided to focus more on beneficiary centered approach while adopting: " Nothing about us without us".

Therefore, in our upcoming project called:"Persons with disabilities into coding" we will have classes where visually impaired people will be learning how to code in order to make sure that they will be contributing in the future in the design of local made assistive tools mostly software applications that meet their needs.

Follow us on twitter for the latest news:

<https://twitter.com/rataaccess>

HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON!!!