



African initiative for mankind progress organization (AIMPO)



Construction plan of modern pottery center in Bugesera district

Annual report 2021

20 years!

AIMPO turns 20 years: AIMPO works to provide historical marginalized people with access to resources, employment, skills and education as the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development in all districts of Rwanda and we are celebrating a lot of success. The work is not finished yet we feel like we are starting by renewing efforts and commitment.

### **What a wonderfully year 2021**

- ♣ Our team is growing (AIMPO has 4 full time staffs, 3 part time staffs, 25 community volunteers, and 4 highly qualified international volunteers' consultants behind our success)
- ♣ Our project is increasing (4 supporters and partners behind our success, our proud partners such as EU/MRG; Lemon AID; Disability Right Fund; Minority Right Group)
- ♣ We are celebrating a lot of success during this reporting period.

## WHO WE ARE?

### ➤ Organization Background

Established in 2001, the African Initiative for Mankind Progress Organization (AIMPO) is a nationally recognized, non-governmental and non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of Rwanda's indigenous, Batwa population, legally categorized as 'Historically Marginalized Peoples' or 'HMP.' The Government of Rwanda (GoR) required our organization to change its name from the African Indigenous Minority People's Organization to its current name in 2007 on the pretense that claims of indigeneity are not relevant to Rwanda. AIMPO formally registered with the Rwanda Governance Board in 2014, and our registration number is 152/NGO/RGB/2014.

### ➤ Vision

To advance the cause and integration of marginalized people in a society where all citizens should be equal in political decision-making and live without discrimination.

### ➤ Goal

Our goal is to deliver high-impact, cost-effective, & culturally competent, capacity-building programs to Historically marginalized People in our target region.

### ➤ Mission

- To promote the individual and collective rights of Historically Marginalized People;
- To facilitate sustainable development in Historically Marginalized People communities,
- To accelerate the social, political and economic integration of historically- Marginalized People into Rwandan society.

### ➤ Specific objectives

- To raise awareness, understanding and knowledge on fundamental human rights to the Historically marginalized People in Rwanda.
- To provide basic skills on income-generating activities, vocational education and training for the adolescents and youth in order to make them self-financing and empowered.
- To eliminate discrimination against Historically marginalized People, ensuring achievement of social integration.

### ➤ Approach of AIMPO



## Highlights of conducted activities in 2021

This report describes key projects and achievement conducted by African Initiative for Mankind Progress Organization (AIMPO) during 2021. Below is a summary of project accomplishments activities during this reporting period, which are discussed in details hereinafter.

Project on strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs), Human Rights (HRD), and Media Houses to Challenge Discrimination against Historically Marginalised People (HMP) and Promote their Human Rights in Rwanda funded by the European Union (EU) under the Partnership for Minority Right Group International and Women's Organization for Promoting Unity (WOPU), covering 01st June 2020 to 31st May 2021. The project's overall objective is to eliminate discrimination against Historically Marginalized People in Rwanda by empowering Civil Society Organization (CSOs), Human Rights Defenders, and Media to effectively defend and promote their human rights. In this final year of project implementation, AIMPO works on two outputs: 1) Knowledge and sharing meeting to the Human Right defenders and civil society, and 2) training staff on project elaboration and follow-up.

Project on start-Up Modern Pottery Training Centre in Bugesera district, implemented from September 2020 - August 2021. The project goals are to create a training modern pottery Centre in Bugesera; train Batwa of Bugesera district to modernise and upgrade their traditional pottery and promote clay in Great Lakes Region and equip Batwa with business skills and engage in Business activities. In this year of project implementation, AIMPO works on: 1) 4-day training on digital marketing and enterprise development and 2) To establish 3-exhibition shops for ceramic products made by Batwa.

Project on strengthening disability unity. The project aims to make capacity building for 11 Committee members of FPDO on organization management, resource reporting, mobilization and Monitoring, and Evaluation in 2 Days and Celebration of International day of people with Disabilities under support of disability right fund.

Project of identifying Batwa children with disabilities & assess their health problems to help AIMPO and FPDO raises the voices of the children with disabilities of Batwa, gain recognition and needed assistance, and address their urgent needs and organizing A 2 days training for parents that have children with intellectual disability on child and disability rights.

## Summary of key activities

Project name	Donor	Geographic coverage	Key activities	Key conducted activities
Strengthening CSOs, Human Rights Defenders and Media Houses to challenge Discrimination against Historically Marginalized People in Rwanda	EU/MRG	Northern and Eastern provinces,	Knowledge and sharing meeting to the Human Right defenders and civil society,	In May 2021, AIMPO organized a 2-days knowledge and experience meeting of Human Rights Defenders and Civil society organizations.
			Conduct a survey on the establishment of the HMPs youth employment database for future advocacy basis in Rwanda,	In May 2021, 10 AIMPO staff with volunteers conduct Survey on the establishment of the HMPs youth employment database for future advocacy basis in Rwanda.
			Training staff on project elaboration and follow-up.	In May 2021, AIMPO, FPDO staff, and Volunteers attended the training on the elaboration of the project and follow-up.
Start-Up Modern Pottery Training Centre in Bugesera district	Lemon AID	Bugesera district, Rwanda	4-days training on digital and enterprise development	The training on digital and enterprise development was prepared to help Batwa to acquire a basic understanding of digital marketing and entrepreneurial skills. The training goal was to understand the four components of marketing: Product, Price, Distribution and Promotion. The training runs for 4-days from 10th to 13rd May 2021. 18 women (60%) and 12 men equal to 40% were the participants of the training.
			Assisting the trained participants to create cooperative	40 community members registered for modern pottery cooperative and AIMPO is in the follow of the functional of the cooperative as a way of sustainability.
			Providing capital loan to members who acquired training on Business	10 persons were provided loans (200,000rwf per person) to create business for their own and implement skills acquired in the training;
Strengthening	DRF/Dis	10 Districts	Capacity Building for 11 Committee	We conducted 2 days training for 11 Committee members of FPDO

disability unity and Batwa Children With disabilities	ability unity		members of FPDO on organization management, resource reporting, mobilization and Monitoring, and Evaluation in 2 Days	on organization management, resource reporting, mobilization and Monitoring, and Evaluation
			Identifying children with disabilities with problems of health issues in ten Districts: Gasabo, Kicukiro, Kamonyi, Musanze, Gicumbi, Nyabihu, Burera, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe and Nyamasheke.	Physio and cognitive and social assessment of 50 cases of children with intellectual disability was recorded and cases per case analysed by HUMURA CENTER
	MRG/Dis ability unity	10 Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A 2 days training for parents that have children with intellectual disabilities on children disability rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AIMPO has the necessary skills, systems and practice to empower disability unity and skills to engage with the government.</li> <li>▪ 50 parents (9 males and 41 females) that have children with intellectual disabilities have been trained in 2 days on policy and legal context framework (laws protecting the rights of children with disabilities).</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Celebration of International day of people with Disabilities</li> </ul>	80 personnel (39 males and 41 females) that have connected with disability issues including 50 parents that have children with intellectual disability and 12 FPDO committee members, 5 AIMPO staffs and 13 DPOs stakeholders working to raise awareness on disability right are invited to celebrate international day with disability.

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## 1. Project description: Strengthening CSOs, Human Rights Defenders and Media Houses to challenge Discrimination against Historically Marginalized People in Rwanda

In this final year of project implementation, AIMPO works on two outputs: 1) Knowledge and sharing meeting to the Human Right defenders and civil society, and 2) training staff on project elaboration and follow-up as described under below:

### o Knowledge and experience sharing Network meetings

Through the financial support of the European Union, African Initiative for Mankind Progress Organization (AIMPO), in partnership with Minority Right Group International (MRGI) and Women's Organization for Promoting Unity (WOPU), organized a Knowledge and sharing experience Network meeting.

The CSOs and HRD knowledge and experiences have attracted 30 participants (16 women and 14 men) of CSOs, Human Rights Defenders. AIMPO extends an invitation to the former CSOs and HRDs who before attended capacity building on international human rights instruments & advocacy strategies. Unfortunately, few responded, while others did not manage to attend due to Covid-19. For instance. Many participants were HRDs, and only 2 organizations attended the meeting (WOPU, FPDO).

It has forced AIMPO to replace those who did not manage to attend with some volunteer's students work with Batwa and follow their activities. However, AIMPO has asked ex-participants who did not come for networking meetings to provide a small message to the entire participants attending the meeting on the challenge and their experiences to protect and promote HMP rights. The training is scheduled for 13-14 May 2021, at Centre Saint Vincent Pallotti Gikondo from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.



*Photos: Trainers gathering ideas from participants*

### The overview of Sharing Networking meetings

The meeting started with the Uwajeneza Delphine project coordinator's opening remarks remind the participants that AIMPO is pleased to collaborate with other CSO and individuals who are very keen on equality and respect of Human rights. During the meeting list of questions was posted on the table of the participants.

1. What incentives have you implemented to promote and protect the rights of HMP?
2. What challenges did you face in implementing your initiative? If yes, explain to the audience
3. How do you keep yourself in advocacy work?

4. What type of measurement do you see out there after your advocacy?
5. Do you see the political will to address the issue of HMP where you live?
6. What can be done to remove barriers you encountered?

Each participant was asked to present his experiences in protecting and promoting the rights of historically marginalized people. Most people of HRD and CSOs have been monitoring Covid-19 relief support given to vulnerable people, but Batwa could not get it because of systematic discrimination and lack of information. Participants have told how they tried to advocate for the rights of HMP in the areas operates by mobilizing local authorities to give support of health facilities to fight against poor hygiene diseases, including Covid-19. Another interesting story was about Mary, who shared three Twa persons arrested and detained at the Cell office because of dirtiness. As HRD, it was human rights violation because those people cannot afford soap because they do not work to sustain their families. The people were excluded from the VUP program, so Mary told the local leader that it is their fault for failing to help HMP and to include them in government programs. As for now, these three people are working in VUP. However, participants have raised the issue of lack of recognition for the Batwa as challenges. For example, there some even heard that Batwa issue are not a priority for government. One CSO member who attended the meeting has given us testimony on how one District leader said that Batwa concerns are not on the table as their priority to answer. He added that most Rwandans do not see Batwa as citizens because they cannot contribute anything, only moaning. Another said that Batwa has become a problem for local leaders because they misuse the support getting from the government, which puts in danger to the HRD and CSOs when they raise the issue of HMP. I was asked to keep quiet in the Join Action Forum meeting held in Karongi District when discussing the district budget. In the budget, the District included small support for handicraft groups to help them to expand their market. when I asked the district leader if they will help Batwa to improve their pottery, the leader said, *"don't talk those. They are very complicated to manage. For example, we gave them pigs and, in the morning, eat them"*, do you think they can have any innovation if they cannot even manage a house? please let continue mayor said, the testimony of ISDO O representative. On this issue, participants suggested that a program of hearing community trauma is needed because the way Batwa lives and has trauma has passed to generation and generation. They asked AIMPO to propose a program to heal Batwa trauma they face.

The covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated an existential threat to CSO and HRD movements. These defenders are on the frontlines, providing support to vulnerable communities has faced barriers to reach communities during the lockdown and often to meet leaders. Participants have reached an agreement to advocate for the Covid-19 vaccine for HMP because they are among communities at high risk of contracting viruses because of moving, searching for food, and jobs. The meeting was ended by project assistant Coordinator Mr.Xavier Harelimana who appreciated all participants for their excellent work and their time give to AIMPO.

#### ➤ **TRAINING ON PROJECT ELABORATION AND FOLLOW- UP**

This course was designed for the AIMPO staff who everyday designing project for grants and implementing it. Other members included was FPDO member's twin organization of AIMPO who have interest in doing project in future. The course provides insight into all aspects of proposal writing and implementation. Emphasis has been placed on highlighting components of proposal design.

List of questions were answered.

- What are the key components in a proposal?
- What are the most essential things donors want to know?
- What is project cycle?
- What should we include in a detailed implementation plan?



- What are indicators? Please give an example.
- How will you draw a budget?
- What other information should be attached when a proposal is submitted?

The course was delivered over the period May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The total number of those who completed the training was 10. At the training, participants get a training manual. The variety of learning delivery and assessment methodologies were employed to enable the course to be participatory and interactive and allow participants to assimilate the new ideas and learning effectively. Importantly, emphasis was placed on adult learning methodologies, and over the duration of the course, there were a combination of: Analysis of project examples as case studies, Group Discussions, Individual and group work/assignments, and oral and written presentations.

The trainer explains the participant's sample proposal format, such as title, problem statement, results, beneficiaries, location, indicators, outcomes, activities, goals. The project's development must be specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realizable (Relevant), all in Time-bound, added that; it should be referred to the research, audience, and situation analysis. During training, the Facilitator focused on project follow-up. It began with the project idea to the end of it, with the MEAL plan to demonstrate the strategy used in Monitoring and Evaluation. During the training, participants expressed curiosity of have skills about the project elaboration as the way to help AIMPO staff to design many project proposals.

➤ **Outcomes of activity of training on project elaboration and follow-up**

- The participants can differentiate the way of designing the organization project proposal and business proposal;
- The participants can write a specific, measurable, Achievable, Relevant; proposal in time-bound;
- Participants are to do the follow-up of the project;
- Participants can understand MEAL techniques.

Analyses of pre-and post-evaluation results showed that knowledge acquisition and comprehension of modules are occurring concerning key competencies disseminated throughout the training. This has included improvements in competencies associated with learning and re-calling terms, definitions, understanding concepts and relations, recognizing examples in practice. In General, 60% of the participants' pre-and post-evaluation results have improved their knowledge and understanding across project elaboration and follow-up topics.

## **2. Project description: Start-Up Modern Pottery Training Centre in Bugesera district**

There are three activities planned to implement under this project as described below:

1. 4-day training on digital marketing and enterprise development;
2. Assisting the trained participants to create cooperatives;
3. To establish 3-exhibition shops for ceramic products made by Batwa.

**Activity 1:** The training on digital and enterprise development was prepared to help Batwa to acquire a basic understanding of digital marketing and entrepreneurial skills. The training goal was to understand the four components of marketing: Product, Price, Distribution and Promotion. The training runs for 4-days from 10th to 13<sup>rd</sup> May 2021. 18 women ( 60%) and 12 men equal to 40% were the participants.

❖ The first day of the training incorporated three sessions: learning about each other, introduction to marketing, and essential marketing components. Day one started by knowing each other better, building a team, and sharing participants' experiences. In the first session, a participant gave testimony on how he

faced discrimination when owning a small shop. ‘*He was selling food such as vegetables, potatoes, and different kinds of flours such as cassava, corn and Sorghum flour. People were encouraged others not to buy flours from Twa shop. He said that non-Twa used to make a joke that my flour has clay. They pass to my shop and go to buy to the other shops in 500 Metres not because I don't have good flour but because I am Twa. Only Batwa come to my shop. The majority of Twa asked for a loan, and the majority failed to pay me, which I ended close my shop, said by participant*’. Session two for the first day of training, people acquired skills in marketing. Introduction of marketing aimed to help people to understand the importance and challenges of small-scale business.

- ❖ The second day of the training was composed of two sessions: the second-day sessions were pricing and promotion. The pricing session aimed to help participants understand fundamental pricing principles or essential elements to consider in the costing and pricing. Trainer asked participants to give different views that consider making the pricing of traditional pots and ceramic products. Participants provided different views that based to consider pricing for pottery. One mentions that the pot cost is based on time spend and materials used to make pots. Others said that pricing is based on the quality of the product.
- ❖ Day three participants study about creating market messages and solving marketing problems. The purpose of the sessions was to help trainees learn how to develop effective messages for promoting and selling products and get practice in solving marketing issues.
- ❖ Day four: Day four of the marketing and enterprise development training, participants learn about building market linkages and developing a marketing strategy. These sessions aimed to train participants to learn how to establish a marketing strategy for a product being sold and to study how to establish links with customers. Participants were asked to link pricing and distribution with market linkages and discuss what needs to be maintained.

**Activity2:** 40 members agreed to form a cooperative, 25 people are women, and 15 are men. the project manager (Richard) met community members who agreed to form a cooperative to name cooperative and elect leaders. The cooperative was named "Ubumwe cooperative," which means Unity Cooperative. They also vote for cooperatives' leaders composed of the president, vice president, treasury, secretary, and two advisors. We hired a consultant to draft statutes and regulations for the cooperatives.

**Activity3:** Establishment of shops for Ceramic Products: For this activity, three shops opened. Two shops have opened in Kigali and the third one in Nyamata town. We also worked with other individuals selling made handicraft products in Rwanda to integrate our products in their shops to get a commission. For instance, Vivia Guesthouse is selling our cups under the agreement to have a specific percentage commission. Although shops opened, Centre has not received profit due to lack of customers and covid-19 preventive measures. We use the money we got from selling products to pay workers and community members working at the Centre and buying necessary materials. We are hoping to reach the market in the future based on feedback received from our customers. Likewise, we have also used media platforms to advertise pottery products and to orient Rwandan where they can find our shops and partners who are selling our pottery products.

### **3. Project description: Identifying Batwa children with intellectual disabilities and assessing their Health problems**

As the project activity is planned for a monthly calendar from 06/09/2021 - 06/10/2021, from 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021, AIMPO staffs (Deputy Executive Director and Project officer, FPDO committees) contacted HVP - HUMURA to discuss the feasibility of this activity and we conclude to bring the children to the (HVP -

HUMIRA) center. Thursday 16 September 2021, AIMPO organization, in partnership with HVP-HUMIRA, started to implement the activity of “Physio and cognitive and social assessment of the children with intellectual disabilities in 3 districts of Kicukiro, Gasabo and Kamonyi. The overall objective of this short-term project is Physio and cognitive and social assessment of 50 Batwa children with intellectual disabilities & assess their health problems; The specific aim is to support children with intellectual disabilities to access physical rehabilitation need. 3 hours was spent on every child by conducting intellectual and physical assessment by HVP-HUMURA specialists' nurses. Advice was provided to parents how to behave their children in order to keep them health. AIMPO and FPDO will continue to raise the voices of the children with intellectual disabilities of Batwa as means of advocacy. HVP-HUMIRA specialists' nurses produced reports for every child self-assessment intellectual and physical and provide recommendations.

### **Objective**

Identifying children's health challenges and particular healthcare needs for Batwa with disabilities will help AIMPO and FPDO raises the voices of the children with disabilities of Batwa, gain recognition and needed assistance, and address their urgent needs.

### **Project results (impact and outcomes)**

- ◆ Physio and cognitive and social assessment of 50 cases of children with intellectual disabilities was conducted and drawn recommendation for every child in Kicukiro, Gasabo and Kamonyi districts;
- ◆ 50 parents have been advised that early intervention needs to be ensured in intellectual and physical rehabilitation for their children;
- ◆ Cases for every child have been assessed and put on board to AIMPO and FPDO organization for a further program that will support them;
- ◆ Children supported systematically to assess potential needs about general and specific services of health, social protection and education system, for each child's development;
- ◆ A more comprehensive programme of ongoing work of supports HMP children with intellectual disabilities and their families’ access to their economic, social and cultural rights.
- ◆ Intellectual and physical assessment for each child and how parents should behave about their children have been provided by HUMURA specialist.

## **4. Project Description: Training for Parents that have Children with Intellectual Disability on Laws Protecting the Rights of Children with Disability and Celebration of International Day with Disability**

After identification of 50 cases of children with intellectual disability in Gasabo, Kicukiro and Kamonyi districts from 06/09/2021 - 06/10/2021 and with the financial support of Minority Rights Group International (MRG), AIMPO organized 2 days of training for 50 parents that have children with intellectual disability on policy and legal context framework (**Global, National level** laws protecting the rights of children with disabilities) as a way of providing hands on capacity building of parents to carry out strategic advocacy to influence government and home-based self-care skills, feeding and positioning for the children that have intellectual disability and The international day for persons with disabilities (IDPD), the annual observance of the international day of disabled persons was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. Observed annually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December with the aims to promote an understanding of

disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. It is through this opportunity that with financial support of minority rights group international (MRG), first people disability organization (FPDO) with technical support of African Initiative for Mankind Progress Organization (AIMPO) invited parents with children of intellectual disability, FPDOs members and Disabled People's organizations (DPOs) representatives and other stakeholders who are part of the Disability Coordination Forum specifically Hand in hand for development organization; IDA – Rwanda; HVP; ISDO organization; Disability representative of Gisozi sector; National organization of users and survivors of psychiatry (NOUSPR) and HUMURA representative) to celebrated international day with disability that held in LAVIVA Motel and 80 participants (39 males and 41 females) was invited to celebrate this day to raise awareness and promote the rights and perspectives of historical marginalized people with disabilities around the country. This year's celebrations held under the theme, **“Theme for IDPD 2021: Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world.”**

➤ **Objectives of the training**

- To promote an understanding of disability inclusion for the dignity, rights and well-being of historical marginalized people living with disabilities, their families and the communities.
- Providing capacity building for 50 parents (9 males and 41 females) that have children with intellectual disability on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- Providing capacity building for 50 parents (9 males and 41 females) that have children with intellectual disability on the Declaration of the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (AHG/ST.4 Rev.1) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/24.9/49 (1990), *entered into force* Nov. 29, 1999.
- To provide skills base on several laws protecting the rights of children with disabilities in Rwanda.
- Home-based self-care skills, nutritious and feeding and positioning for the children that have intellectual with disability.

➤ **Results of the training**

- 80 personnel (39 males and 41 females) that have connected with disability issues including 50 parents that have children with intellectual disability and 12 FPDO committee members, 5 AIMPO staffs and 13 DPOs stakeholders working to raise disability right are invited to celebrate international day with disability;
- Constructive ideas was discussed by participants with testimonies of different people with disability was taken place;
- Article for press release was produced as way of making strategic advocacy to influence government decision in political, social, economic and cultural inclusion for historical marginalized people with disability.
- 50 trainees (9 males and 41 females) are knowledgeable on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that is considered as the universal standard for the protection of the rights of children with disabilities globally.
- 50 trainees (9 males and 41 females) are knowledgeable on the Declaration of the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (AHG/ST.4 Rev.1) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/24.9/49 (1990), *entered into force* Nov. 29, 1999 that is considered as the regional standard for the protection of the rights of children in its articles with disabilities in Africa.

- 50 trainees (9 males and 41 females) are knowledgeable on several laws protecting the rights of children with disabilities in Rwanda.
- 50 trainees (9 males and 41 females) are knowledgeable on home-based self-care skills, nutritious and feeding and positioning for the children that have intellectual with disability.

### **Recommendation**

- To specifically provide the historically marginalized people the information on different government policies, and other non-governmental opportunities as well as to facilitate them to get pertinent information;
- To conduct intensive advocacy for the promotion and protection of rights of historically marginalized women;
- The government of Rwanda should initiate affirmative action to tackle the specific problems of HMP.
- Increasing training of human rights to the all level of community members, i.e. youth, women, and disabled;
- To specifically support HMPs in creating income-generating activities,
- To design a long-term project of research advocacy with components of development support.
- National Council of People with Disabilities (NCPD) and National Commission on Human Rights must putting measures to ensure the full enjoyment of people with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others peoples
- Producing video story for the cases of Batwa, so that we demonstrate achievement and challenges encounter for development as way of testimony and inclusion;
- The community health based insurance known as “Mutuelle de Santé” does not cover the rehabilitation services like physiotherapy and occupational therapy nor assistive devices, which most disabilities people need to ensure their inclusion and participation in society on an equal basis with others- in education, employment, political participation etc.

### **Major challenges for the project implementation**

- Looking at how the COVID-19 pandemic interfered with the intervention of these projects, it has impacted the planned activities negatively, due to Covid-19 prevention measures; There were extra costs of buying COVID-19 preventive materials; there were measures preventive mass gathering for social distancing.
- In Rwanda, stigma and prejudice toward persons with disabilities persist and represent a huge barrier to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

### **Conclusion**

AIMPO respected and applied the gender-based selection where there should be 50% of women and 50% of men in project participation. As the community awareness meetings, sharing Knowledge and experience meeting, Training on project elaboration and follow-up and Survey on establishment the HMPs youth employment data base for future advocacy basis in Rwanda were conducted during the period of social distancing to curb the spread of coronavirus. The results were not the best we initially wished because the communities were apparently not so steady to COVID-19 situation.

The trainees are pleased about the training organized by AIMPO targeting the parent with children of intellectual disability. Before the training some of them due to stigma and fear of being excluded by community

members, particularly in rural areas, many Children with disability (CwDs) are frequently hidden indoors and some families may not register their children with authorities (e.g., health centres, schools, census officers) for fear of familial shame. Parents have also understand children rights that was not respected and committed to support their children based on policy and legal context framework (**Global, National level** laws protecting the rights of children with disabilities). They decided to make strategic advocacy for their children to get basic need for their children.



Photos in 2 days training of parents that have children with intellectual disability



Photo of the celebration of international day with disability