



NEWSLETTER



About RDSAC

Rowan's Down Syndrome Awareness Center (RDSAC) is a registered NGO based in Kanenankumba Village, East Division, Hoima City, Uganda, dedicated to improving the lives of persons with Down syndrome. Since its establishment, RDSAC has been at the forefront of awareness-raising, advocacy, therapy, and community support for individuals with Down syndrome and their families across the four districts of Hoima, Masindi, Buliisa, and Kikuube.

Our Vision

A Uganda where the 50,000+ people with Down syndrome are independent, self-sufficient, and fully accepted by society, overcoming stigma and daily challenges.

Our Mission

To create and operate a national and regional center of excellence that provides high-quality, affordable services, demonstrating that persons with Down syndrome in Bunyoro, Uganda, and East Africa can lead full and meaningful lives.

2025 at a Glance

In 2025, we made significant strides in advocacy, awareness, and service delivery across our four districts of operation. Through targeted campaigns, community engagements, and strategic partnerships, we reached approximately 15,000 individuals, raising awareness on the rights and inclusion of persons with Down syndrome. 3 new staff members joined our team. Our work strengthened policy implementation, promoted inclusive budgeting, and supported the mainstreaming of Down syndrome services within government and private sector institutions.



Leadership



Mrs. Mildred Katusabe
Cripps Executive Director



Mr. Christopher Cripps
Board Chairperson



Awareness and Advocacy

RDSAC made substantial progress in advocacy and awareness on Down syndrome across the four districts of operation. Through community engagement activities and partnerships, RDSAC reached approximately 1,500 individuals directly, with a wider reach achieved through media and online platforms.



Media and Digital Engagement

RDSAC organized three radio talk shows to sensitize the public on Down syndrome, referral pathways, and psychosocial support. The organization worked closely with Spice FM, Life FM, Kazi Njema, Kabalega FM, and other online radio and TV platforms. Through its website and social media platforms, RDSAC reached more than 200,000 people online.



World Down Syndrome Awareness Day 2025

World Down Syndrome Awareness Day was commemorated on 21st March 2025 in Buliisa District. The event was attended by over 250 people, including parents, caregivers, children with Down syndrome, and key policy makers. Activities included a community march, bicycle riding, and Zumba dance sessions. The District Community Development Officer pledged support to parent and caregiver groups through the District Disability Fund.



World Down Syndrome Awareness Month – Kikube

RDSAC organized World Down Syndrome Awareness Month celebrations in Kikube District on 25th October 2025. The event attracted over 200 participants and was attended by the District LCV Chairperson, District Community Development Officer, and members of the District Disability Council. Community awareness drives reached an estimated 500 people, highlighting inclusion and acceptance of children with Down syndrome.

Get in Touch

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Therapy and Medical Support

One of RDSAC’s major successes in 2025 was the successful heart operation for Michael Murungi in India. After diagnosis and referral, RDSAC facilitated medical assessments, travel, and treatment in partnership with the Indian Association of Uganda. Michael has fully recovered and is thriving.

In 2025, RDSAC delivered 167 speech therapy sessions, supporting 24 families across the four districts of operation. Eight para-therapists were trained, and four caregiver groups remained actively engaged in therapy and support sessions.



Caregivers and Membership

By the end of 2025, RDSAC membership increased from 120 to 131 members, representing a 9% growth rate. Caregiver groups structured their meetings as therapy-focused sessions, enabling parents to share challenges and practical solutions related to health, education, and social inclusion.



Strengthening Caregiver Support and Community Systems

Beyond direct therapy and medical interventions, RDSAC strengthened family resilience and peer support systems. Caregiver groups were supported to formalize their structures, improve governance, and engage more consistently in group activities.e.

New Staff



Christopher Emanzi
Project Manager



Oliver Birungi
Outreach Officer



Livelihood Support

RDSAC, with support from Abilis, supported 15 families in Masindi through a goat-rearing initiative, distributing 30 goats to parents and caregivers of children with Down syndrome. In Bugambe, caregiver groups implemented piggery projects using group savings. All six groups actively participated in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to strengthen household livelihoods and resilience.

Donate Now!

Go Fund Me.



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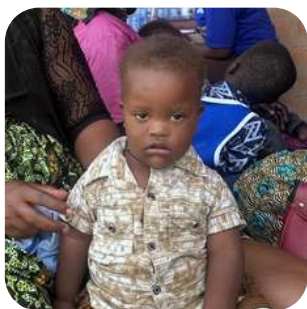


Research and Innovation

RDSAC made progress on research initiatives aimed at improving access to knowledge and support for individuals with Down syndrome. A major milestone was the tripartite agreement between RDSAC, Makerere University, and the Global Down Syndrome Foundation under the Human Trisome Project. The project requires USD 30,000 to initiate research activities fully.



New Members



Partnerships and Networks

In 2025, RDSAC strengthened partnerships at international, national, and local levels. Key partners included the Global Down Syndrome Foundation (GDSF), Down Syndrome International (DSI), Makerere College of Health Sciences, Uganda Heart Institute, district local governments, and community-based organizations. These partnerships enhanced advocacy, service delivery, and access to funding and technical support.



Challenges and Outlook

Despite notable achievements, limited financial resources and a high number of unreached individuals with Down syndrome continue to challenge service delivery. In 2026, RDSAC will focus on expanding its outreach, strengthening the Centre of Excellence, mobilizing additional resources, and enhancing institutional capacity to ensure a sustainable impact, all in line with our 5-year strategy.

