

School 4 All in Africa



Over 90% of disabled children in Africa do not go to school. Our joint commitment can help change this.

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland and Leonard Cheshire Disability are working to overcome the barriers facing disabled children, so that every child can go to school. With support from Rotary our School 4 All in Africa programme will:

- Target 1,000 disabled children to attend school across Mukono and Pallise in Uganda
- Train 80 teachers on inclusive education and how to teach disabled children
- Adapt 20 schools to make them more accessible for disabled children
- Involve 2,000 children in inclusive education clubs to spread the work about education for disabled children
- Establish a Disability Resource Centre to provide specialist support to schools and families.
- Community based rehabilitation to train 500 parents / carers of disabled children in basic physical therapy
- Launch a community awareness raising and sensitisation programme
- Provide safe and clean drinking water and sanitary provision for disabled girls

The Uganda project grew out of another successful education project in Kenya in which Leonard Cheshire Disability:

- Increased the number of disabled children attending five schools in one district from 45 to 600
- Improved understanding of disability issues and access to services in a further 10,000 children, parents and community members
- Influenced Kenya's national curriculum to recognise the needs of disabled children

We are now extending the project to cover a whole province of Kenya including 434 schools.

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**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

Exceeding Expectations: Martha's Story

"Rough" – that is 14-year-old Martha's view of her childhood. Martha was born in Kenya with a weakness along her left side that gives her a slow, unsteady walk. "It was not easy at all in school," Martha says. "The other children could not play with me; I would slowly walk home during playtime."

Then Leonard Cheshire Disability and its partners started a project to support disabled children in going to school. "I was told there were teachers trained to handle disabled children," Martha's

father says. "I strongly felt that my daughter should go to these schools too."

Martha enrolled in a programme school and last term was ranked among the ten best pupils in her year. "I am very happy here, we do everything together, I have so many friends and they play with me. I don't walk home alone any more during playtime", says Martha with a big smile. Her father adds that, "I am very happy; Martha has shown some remarkable improvements both at home and at school, something I did not expect from her."

School 4 All in Africa

Supporting disabled children to get the education they need is a large part of Leonard Cheshire Disability's work in Africa. Since over 90% of disabled boys and girls there do not go to school at all, our projects help families, schools and communities work together to change this. Our programmes enable children to attend their local mainstream schools, a process known as inclusive education. We consider inclusive education to include the whole range of educational options available to children, ensuring that they get the best support possible for their individual needs.

For most disabled children in developing countries, attending their local schools is the best option available. In these cases, we work with the schools and the local education authorities to help them become accessible, welcoming environments. Also essential is assessing what all the area's children need, including any disabled children, and examining or enhancing existing programmes to meet those needs.

Photo credit: Gideon Mendel/Leonard Cheshire Disability



How Inclusive Education Works

Inclusive Education is primarily about changing school cultures, policies and practices so that they respond to the diversity of students in their locality. It sees individual differences not as problems to be fixed, but as opportunities for enriching learning and for education systems to embrace change. It is a dynamic, continuing process of facilitating the participation of all students, including those with disabilities.

To support the process of inclusion, we collaborate with others in the disability and development field. Combined with Leonard Cheshire Disability's emphasis on evidence based practice and research, this has a positive impact on national education policies.

Our education work in Africa includes a province-wide programme in Kenya, ongoing projects in Botswana, Sierra Leone and Sudan as well as new initiatives in Liberia, Uganda and Zambia.

Supporting a Global Priority

Leonard Cheshire Disability's education programmes directly support the second of the UN's eight "Millennium Development Goals" – universal primary education. Designed to reduce or eradicate poverty, hunger and illiteracy by 2015, the goals will only be met when all children – including those with disabilities – are entitled to and able to go to school.

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Leonard Cheshire Disability is a registered charity no. 218186 (England & Wales) and no. SCO05117 (Scotland)