

SIGN LANGUAGES ARE LANGUAGES

an **ubongo** Infographic



According to the National Deaf Children's Society, there are an

estimated 8.9 MILLION Deaf children in Sub-Saharan Africa.¹



The majority of these kids do not have access to a quality education that supports their needs.

In fact,

only 2% of Deaf people globally have access to sign language education (United Nations)

There are at least 23 sign languages²

in Africa, however, many countries still don't recognize sign languages as languages, and this has adverse effects on Deaf children's:



Ability to learn



Ability to communicate and express themselves effectively



Ability to engage and participate in society; leaving Deaf children isolated and lonely



Ability to live independent lives as adults and financially support themselves

In fact, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), adults with deafness and hearing loss have a much higher unemployment rate and are in lower grades of employment compared with the general workforce.

Data Sources:
1. <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/deaf-child-worldwide/where-we-work-with-deaf-children/>
2. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285835917_The_Sign_Languages_of_Africa

At Ubongo, we are committed to making free, top-quality edutainment inclusively available to all kids across Sub-Saharan Africa in local languages. To support Deaf children, we have worked with partners like **E-Kitabu, Hope and Healing, Enuma, OSIEA, and Akili Kids** to:



- Adapt some of our early childhood, STEM, and life skills content into Tanzanian Sign Language and Kenyan Sign Language
- Co-create content with kids with disabilities that focuses on their rights, needs, and critical life skills: including peer support and cooperation



"They are friendlier and more helpful to our neighbour's child who sometimes uses crutches or a wheelchair and I think the show has something to do with that."

-Kenya Mother of kids aged 5 and 11

There is still so much more that can be done.

In addition to creating even more content in African sign languages, we are committed to:

- Raising awareness of sign languages as languages and the rights of people with disabilities
- Supporting the creation of and demanding more sign language integration into learning resources and mainstream programming
- Co-creating content, innovations, and programs with Deaf children - having them as our partners and key decision-makers

But we can't do it alone. Help enable Deaf children to live quality and dignified lives by partnering with us to adopt more of our edutainment into different African sign languages.

- To sponsor content, contact: partnerships@ubongo.org
- To donate, go to: ubongo.org/donate
- To download and share our content visit: toolkits.ubongo.org

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