

THE AFRICAN REGION



Introduction

Africa has the largest black Sign Language Interpreters in the world with different languages and limited professional recognition across the continent. Base on its linguistic diversity and cultural background, the prospect for its multicultural nature, is endowed with untapped potentials that will add value to the global professional development of the field of sign language interpreting field. Africa

Federation of Sign Language interpreters is that platform that sign language interpreters in the continent of Africa wishes to promote the professional unity in a multicultural diverse environment.

In this report, some selected countries in the continent are able to present their activities for the year 2024. This report shows the resilience of Practitioners in the region and to continue to solicit for technical partnership and collaboration with developed Sign Language Interpreting institutions to improve the profession to a more effective and efficient practice.

In a bid to sustain these ideas, the region has resolved to host AFSLI Conference 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda. The decision was reached during the recently held meeting of members in the region to announce the winners of the hosting bid after due consultation and review.

COUNTRY REPORTS

ZAMBIA



During the period in view, the Federation of Sign Language Interpreters and Translators of Zambia (FSLITZ) held training programs for sign interpreters in Zambia. Dr. Anthony Aramburo a professional interpreter trainer from the USA facilitates the training. The

training has in attendance, sign language interpreters from other countries such as Botswana and Zimbabwe. It is the ambition of association to have about 60 new sign language interpreters at the beginners' level. The association also participated in other activities to hype the concerns of sign language interpreters and promote access to information for Deaf during the 2024 International Week of Sign Languages.

Advanced Sign language training graduation conducted by Dr. Anthony

RWANDA

Training in Genke District



The Rwanda National Union of Sign Language Interpreters (RNUSLI) conducted a 2 days training of 30 local leaders in Gakenke District on the rights of persons with disabilities and the communication sign of language for Deaf and Deaf blind people. To further promote their partnership with the Deaf Association, the Union supported the Deaf students with school materials at the cost of 300 US, provided sign language interpretation services to the National Union of the Deaf during the celebration of the Deaf week 2024 and observed 4 Quarterly Board. During the board meeting, the General Assembly new leadership was elected to serve the coming 4 years. The association also developed guidelines governing its day to day operations and also applied to the Rwanda Governance Board certificate to operate its activities in June 2024 to confirm with the new law governing civil society organizations.

TANZANIA

The Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLIT) provided sign language interpretation services during the International Deaf Awareness Week during various activities conducted by deaf community. We also conducted capacity building training to Sign language interpreters on Sign Language Interpretation. Members also continued to provide sign language interpretation in 7 TV stations, hospitals, court National assembly and for local and international conferences.

KENYA

Interpreter training session with Globo Company



The Kenya Sign Language Interpreters Association (KSLIA) established a transformative partnership with Globo, a U.S based language solutions company, aimed at mentoring KSL interpreters and equipping them with skills to work virtually for Globo. The training focused on medical Interpretation and the use of Classifiers during

interpretation. The pilot project started in November 2023 with 12 interpreters but has now grown to 53 who have successfully completed the 40-hour virtual training. In August 2024, Globo had a physical training session with the interpreters at the Clarion Hotel in Nairobi.

Additionally, an interactive forum in August brought together 25 deaf leaders and 35 interpreters. The forum discussed the provisions and significance of the Kenyan Sign Language Bill 2024; a bill currently undergoing necessary parliamentary process before it becomes law. Among other provisions in the bill, a section of the bill proposes establishment of regulation mechanisms for the sign language interpretation in Kenya.

UGANDA



Uganda National Association of sign language interpreters (UNASLI) in partnership with Buganda Disability council and Buganda Kingdom through Ministry of Gender organised a legal training at Bulange-mengo

for sign language interpreters to enable them provide effective sign language interpretation services in courts of law. A total of 18 sign language interpreters were trained in the following topics

- ✓ Common legal terminologies and jargons used in courts of law;
- ✓ Court procedures and protocols;
- ✓ Different types of courts and the type of cases they handle;
- ✓ People found in courts and their specific roles.

UNASLI leadership also had a meeting with sign language interpreters working with the Media. The objective of the meeting was to find out the challenges that these sign language interpreters face while working with the different Media houses, share experiences and forge a way forward on how to overcome the challenges.

NIGERIA



The Association of Sign Language Interpreters of Nigeria (ASLIN) held its national conference and an Annual General Meeting on 30th – 31st October 2024 at Protea Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. The Conference'

theme was ***“Mental Health and Emerging Trends on Sign Language Interpreting”***. The conference which was sponsored by the European Union project in Nigeria (International Idea), had in participation; Nigeria Deaf President, President of the Nigeria Deaf Sport Federation and Members of the European Union Project. It also provide the association the opportunity to review its governance manual, nominate new board members and create new offices that will enable the association meet the current organizational realities.

GHANA



The National Association of Sign Language Interpreters-Ghana (NASLIG) successful engagement with the national Deaf association reasonable pay rate for sign language interpretation service.

The COVID-19 situation in Ghana required the services of sign language interpreters, which resorted to outrageous charges for services by interpreters. The matter was drawn to the association and discussions with the Ghana National Association of the Deaf (GNAD) agreed to set up a working committee to come up with acceptable rates for sign language interpretation services. In 2024 the committee collected all the views gathered from interpreters with different interpreting setting experience and developed a working document. Draft proposals have been made awaiting the final document, which will serve as a guide for payments of sign language interpreters.

ZIMBABWE



Sign Language Interpreters Association of Zimbabwe (SLIAZ) was involved in National consultations on the Disability Bill and Private Voluntary Organization bill in February 2024. This bill The association also participated in the International Deaf Awareness week celebrations in September 2024. One of its members attended interpreter's conference in Zambia.

Participants during the Disability Bill and Private Voluntary Organisation in February 2024

COTE DVOIRE

Association Nationale des Sourds de Cote d'voire (ANASOCI) in collaboration with the National Association of the Deaf had a forum for overview of SL interprétation in Côte d'Ivoire organized. The association also participated in to training workshops on advocacy and lobbying organized by both associations.

ANASOCI conducted an interpreter training August -September 2024 together with NGO Society Without Barriers- Côte d'Ivoire. Interpreters also participated in the International Deaf Awareness Week activities.

EGYPT

No interpreter association yet but individual interpreters continue to provide sign language interpretation in various settings. The National Council for persons with disabilities has spearheaded many activities for the deaf and ensured sign language interpretation is provided.



Through the National Council for persons with disabilities in cooperation with Decent Life Foundation conducted free breast cancer awareness during the International Sign Language day.

We also translated the services provided by a government bank to make them accessible to the deaf community.



Making banking services accessible to the deaf