Implementation of the Peace Building Priority Plan (PPCP III) in Burundi with the support of the Peace Building Fund

Key field: Engaging the youth
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Project zones of intervention

Provinces of:
- Gitega,
- Karuzi,
- Kayanza,
- Makamba,
- Ngozi,
- Rumonge,
- Rutana,
- Bujumbura Mairie,
- Bujumbura Rural,
- Bururi
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Objective

The PPCP III aims to promote sustainable peace in Burundi, respecting human rights, forestalling and resolving conflicts in a peaceful manner and thus creating an environment favorable to sustainable development.
Principal PPCP III pillars

Engaging youth in peace building through two projects:

- Communal security and social cohesion support for young people affected by conflict (UNFPA, UNDP and UNV)
- Promoting peace consolidation through theater based on UBUNTU values (UNICEF)

National dialogue and social cohesion implemented through three projects:

- Promotion of National Dialogue (UNDP and UNESCO)
- Promotion of the role of women in peace building (UNWOMEN)
- Support Funds for dialogue towards the resolution of the Burundi crisis (OSASG & UNOPS)

Promotion and Protection of human rights through two projects:

- Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Support in Burundi (OHCHR and UNDP)
- Combatting gender based violence (SGBV) in Burundi (UNWOMEN)
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**Local security and social cohesion support young people affected by conflict**

**Project objectives:**

>> **To reinforce positive relations** and a good understanding between young people from different economic and political groups.

>> **An inclusive process to rebuild the community** achieved by young people affected by crisis including the promotion of peaceful living, social cohesion and social-economical development.

>> **Volunteering of young people** to work for the community.

Reinforce positive relationship, common understanding, between young people from different economic and political groups.

**Zones of intervention**

**Bujumbura Mairie:** Musaga, Nyakabiga, Ngagara, Cibitoke, Kanyosha, Mutakura, Buterere, Kinindo, Bwiza, Buyenzi, Bujumbura Rural: districts of Mukike and Mugongo-Manga

**Bururi:** district of Mugamba.

**An opinion tool used to measure young peoples’ thoughts** on security, social cohesion and peace has been elaborated, validated and used to collect information at a community level.

1,300 young girls and boys have been selected and participate in communal life and mediation as well as in the peaceful solving of conflicts.

26 peace and solidarity clubs have been implemented and participate in community mediation and the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

300 young people have benefitted from a training course to reinforce their communal mediation and resilience skills in order to promote social cohesion and strengthen peace.

260 change managers have been trained and contribute in social mobilization, for better social cohesion and the consolidation of peace. A guidance book on the resolution of conflict and the resilience of young people is in the works.

220 young people who took part in the 2015 crisis and have recently been liberated from prison, have been socially reintegrated and are now safe due to the efforts of change managers and peace clubs.

A guidance tool, made to measure young peoples’ resilience when confronted with sociopolitical conflict is being conceived with the participation of 200 young leaders of associations and political parties.

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>> **An inclusive process to rebuild the community** achieved by young people affected by crisis including the promotion of peaceful living, social cohesion and social-economical development.

>> **Volunteering of young people** to work for the community.

2,300 young girls and boys have been selected and participate in communal life and mediation as well as in the peaceful solving of conflicts.

26 peace and solidarity clubs have been implemented and participate in community mediation and the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

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Testimony:
Ange avoided prison with the help of change managers. 28 years old, this young man from Bujumbura was about to jailed for the second time.

“...It was March 2017 and I had just been released from central prison, after 15 months of incarceration for breach of national security after my participation in the April 2015 demonstrations. After several legal actions, I was released along with others who had benefitted from a presidential pardon. My family welcomed me home, singing my praises and I was happy in spite of all I’d lost and all I’d endured. Unfortunately for me, the police came to get me at home as a young neighbor had turned me in by accusing me of having ties with armed groups which are against peace for our country. When they heard of my plight, the young change managers of my village got together with youths from the party in power and went to see the administrator, the police superintendent, to ask for my liberation, giving proof of my innocence of the charges against me. I was able to avoid prison thanks to these courageous young people, and I am now part of their team called ‘The Peace Club’ and we strive to promote peace and peaceful cohabitation in our community.”

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210 young people living in camps for internally displaced persons and 100 young people from the local population placed under administrative control have positive relations with each other and managed to settle 10 conflicts thanks to capacity building sessions on peaceful cohabitation and peaceful conflict resolution skills.

More than 100 young people having been internally displaced, after the April 2015 crisis were able to regain their homes. They participate in communal dialogues for the peace and security within their community.

13 communal platforms have been set up and provide dialogue space creating positive interaction for conflict management and solution finding.

3 national intergenerational dialogue sessions and 39 community dialogue sessions have been organized around the themes of peace and security. They have contributed to the reconciliation of young people, security forces, the police, parents and the members of combined security committees.

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Young people affected by the crisis participate in the reconstruction of their community in order to promote peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and socioeconomic development

Zones of intervention

Bujumbura Mairie: Musaga, Kanyosha, Kamenge, Ngagara, Mutakura and Cibitoke

Testimony:
A young woman from Kamenge: Claudine Ndikumana, beneficiary of the project in Kamenge says
“We will never thank the UNDP and its partners enough for the choice it has given us to get to know each other better while making pocket money which allows us to meet our basic needs. Before this project, it was very difficult for me to meet my most primary needs such as food and medical care”. 

300 young leaders have developed skills in the management and prevention of conflicts. They organize meetings between young people with a vision of promoting social cohesion inside their zones and districts.

600 young unemployed people benefit from “High Intensity Labor” activities (HIMO) and each earn 156 USD for 3 months work.

The improvement of interaction between young people from districts or zone traditionally of different or even conflicting political beliefs.

6 youth committees have been established in order to manage, on a daily basis, matters relative to rehabilitated infrastructures and their maintenance.

Youth committees have organized meetings between young people with a vision of promoting social cohesion inside their zones and districts.
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Testimony:
Léandre Ntinyumuremyi, a young man from Musaga says

“A few years ago, or even, a few months ago, this kind of initiative would have been seen as a bad joke or even as a provocation. We can only rejoice in the fact that this project has permitted us to overcome our ethnic and political differences.”

780 young people, of which 50% are women, directly benefit from job creating activities. They work to rehabilitate communal infrastructures which have been destroyed either in conflicts or due to a lack of maintenance, in particular the streets and gutters.
Youth volunteerism in the community is now a reality

The local authorities and civil society organizations have been made aware of the importance of the project, particularly the “volunteering of young people” aspect.

An independent provincial committee in charge of the mobilization of young people has been established in the Bujumbura City.

The committee unites representatives of the Mayor of the town, young people, the provincial coordinator of the volunteers’ action, members of the civil society and of administration and:

38 reception centers in the provinces of Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie have been selected and are partners of the project.

100 young volunteers of which 54 are men/boys and 46 are women/girls, (54% M and 46% F) have been mobilized and placed in the 38 reception centers of Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie.
Reception centers have been created and young volunteers have been trained in the values of volunteering, rules and responsibilities in partnership.

4 peace clubs with young volunteers have been created. They are located in Bujumbura Mairie, Kabezi, Isare and Mubimbi. They take part in community work and in the training and activities of the young people in their community.

100 young, engaged volunteers have been trained and contribute effectively to the social mobilization for social cohesion and community security.
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The diagram below illustrates this combined approach linking:

- Community participation,
- The strengthening of life skill capacities based on Ubuntu values (tolerance, mutual aid, solidarity, generosity, mutual respect...) and
- Activities of solidarity.

This approach has generated a significant changes in the tolerance and social cohesion between the different groups, and better solidarity through empowerment activities which protect young people against all forms of manipulation, including Gender Based Violence (GBV).

**Project objectives:**

- Narrative and interactive theater **activities**, 
- Life skills **workshops** *(LS - CVC)* 
- Mutual support and solidarity initiatives through loan and credit based on the VICOBA model *(Village Community Banks)*.

**Zones of intervention**

11 Ubuntu communities in the provinces of Gitega, Karuzi, Kayanza, Makamba, Ngozi, Rumonge and Rutana.

Social cohesion has been improved between young boys and girls of different social groups in the communities of intervention. It allows to prevent and manage conflicts, change mentalities and consolidate peace.

“I am because we are” ...

* This quote comes from the ‘Ubuntu’ humanist philosophy, which is part of the Bantu people’s tradition. Ubuntu values strengthen the ties between individuals and within society by emphasizing tolerance, mutual aid, solidarity, generosity and mutual respect...
The narrative and interactive theater sessions permitted young people to grow aware of the origins of their conflicts inside the communities. This awareness has been supported by the improvement of their life skills (LS) based on Ubuntu values. This has permitted them to acquire the necessary tools needed to promote peace, particularly in negotiation, peaceful management of conflicts, emotional management, leadership, to allow them to integrate values such as tolerance, mutual aid, solidarity, generosity and mutual respect.

Acknowledging that young peoples’ lack of vital resources made them vulnerable to political manipulation as well as to solicitations of all sorts, mutual support and solidarity initiatives were reinforced and completed with two other tools of change: the savings activity and the VICOBAd-model loans, aiming to render young people autonomous by their taking control of their own lives, with their own resources and creativity in the perspective of a sustainable social cohesion.
Young people express their thoughts on the different measures taken by the Peace Building Priority Plan (PPCP III)

Testimony

Papille Harineza, a 23 year old young woman from Ngozi. She is one of the 265 young people, of which there are 150 girls:

“The Ubuntu values create a community of people without differences or any other kind of consideration. It’s better to have a good relationship with others without any form of resentment. My brother has been a victim, I’ve been a victim, my family has been a victim, but I believe that we should learn to live in harmony if we want to have a normal life.”

Célestin, a young man of 24, who survived ethnic violence when he was two, is among the 267 young people who relate their views on the improvement of tolerance:

“It’s through love that I’ve understood tolerance. As a Tutsi I married a Hutu woman. If my family respect and love each other we will be able to rebuild our country. That’s what I want.”

Determined, showing solidarity in order to take their own lives in hand, the young people of the Ubuntu community have mobilized their own savings, amounting to 17,368,100 BIF on the Vicoba-model and are embarking upon different self-reliance initiatives thanks to the loans. Autonomization is one of the means of permitting young people to protect themselves from being manipulated by others, which includes gender based violence.

Joselyne Nahishakiye, a young woman from Burimba/Rumonge is one of the 55 young people, of which 37 are women and 18 are men, who expressed their views on gender equality, protecting women from gender based violence:

“Now I’ve opened a restaurant and I pay rent monthly. At this rate, I can see that in a few years time. I’ll be a great business woman... respected and fulfilled.”