

**Center for Research and Action towards Sustainable  
Peace and Development (CRASPD)**

**Annual Report 2017**

**February 2018**



**Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS)  
P.O. Box 619, Huye  
Southern Province, Rwanda**



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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AMI	Association Modeste et Innocent
ARCT	Association Rwandaise des Conseillers en Traumatisme
AVP	Alternatives to Violence Program
CARSA	Christian Action for Reconciliation and Social Assistance
CbL	Compelled by Love
CPS	Civil Peace Service
CRASPD	Center for Research and Action towards Sustainable Peace and Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EIRENE	A German peace NGO named after the Greek word <i>eirein</i> (peace)
FDS	Faculty of Development Studies
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (the German Governmental Development Agency)
GLR	Great Lakes Region of Africa
HROC	Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities Program
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
IPA	International Peace Advisor
LPA	Local Peace Advisor
MHDF	Mental Health Dignity Foundation
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NHK	Nippon Hoso Kyokai (Japan's largest broadcasting organization)
NVC	Nonviolent Communication
NWC	Nyamirambo Women's Center
PIASS	Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences
REACH	Reconciliation Evangelism and Christian Healing
ToF	Training of Facilitators
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VOLT	Vorbereitung Ongoing Long Term Training

## I. INTRODUCTION

Since its founding in February 2015 under the Faculty of Development Studies (FDS) at the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Studies (PIASS), the Center for Research and Action towards Sustainable Peace and Development (CRASPD) has been promoting and supporting research, education, and community services related to peace and development in Rwanda. The Centre has created, and continues to create, opportunities for engagement throughout educational, research, and community outreach activities for students, faculty, and staff of PIASS in collaboration with various partners.

This report describes the main activities carried out by the Center within the period of January to December 2017.

## II. ACTIVITIES

### 1. Collaboration Between PIASS and GIZ Civil Peace Service

#### 1.1 Strategic and Activity Planning

A Strategic Planning Workshop for cooperation of the PIASS Faculty of Development Studies (FDS) with the Civil Peace Service (CPS) of GIZ was held at Centre Saint André KABGAYI, Muhanga, for 2 days on February 8/9, 2017. Members of the Faculty, the President of the PIASS Peace Club and the staff of CRASPD were in attendance, as well as the Coordinator of the GIZ-CPS Program Rwanda. The main goals of the workshop were getting to know each other's work better, identifying strategic areas of cooperation, developing ideas



for joint activities, setting priorities for a 3-year strategic plan, and identifying roles and responsibilities in the cooperation of PIASS and CPS. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Sandra Rubli, International Peace Advisor of GIZ-CPS.

In the follow-up of the Strategic Planning Workshop, FDS conducted a planning session to identify strategic priorities for the coming 12 months, and an operational plan for CRASPD was developed later to put these priorities into practice. One outcome of this work was the development of a proposal to GIZ-CPS, "CRASPD Capacity Development Project" that will be carried out in cooperation with GIZ-CPS, under a local subsidy contract. The main elements of this project are:

1. Constructive Communication at Work: Nonviolent Communication Workshop for PIASS Staff (October 2017)

2. Alternatives to Violence Program
  - a. Facilitators' Refresher & Networking Training with AVP Rwanda (completed)
  - b. AVP Advanced Workshop at PIASS (August 2017)
  - c. AVP Training of Facilitators (September 2017)
3. Participation of 2 CRASPD staff in a seminar to train facilitators in the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) program (June/ July 2017)
4. Peace Building Workshop for Youth in Nyanza (August 2017)

On August 10, 2017, a FDS Workshop on Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation was conducted, with support from the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer of GIZ-CPS at Gihindamuyaga guesthouse. It consisted of a brief refresher presentation on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation basics and the development of Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks for both the faculty and for the cooperation of CRASPD with GIZ-CPS.

## **1.2 GIZ Civil Peace Service Workshops and Meetings**

The integration of the former Burundian International Peace Advisor (IPA) colleagues into the team of the CPS Rwanda—which was the focus of the team building workshop in January and IPA meeting in February—has been completed. The Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and IPA at CRASPD participated in the Professional Group Meeting in March as a new partner organization of GIZ-CPS. Four of the IPAs of the CPS Rwanda team (among them the IPA at CARSPD) participated in the VOLT (Vorbereitung Ongoing Long-Term Training) course, a workshop for reflection and capacity development of CPS. This workshop was conducted for IPAs from all countries who are participating in their project longer than 3 months. Overall, 13 participants, deployed across 8 countries, attended the workshop. Intensive cooperation took place in conducting assessments of the work place environment, experience sharing, peer and individual coaching and capacity development workshops on different topics.

In April, a meeting of all IPAs of GIZ-CPS Rwanda took place to coordinate and further develop the Monitoring and Evaluation matrix of the program. On May 22-23, a Regional Peace & Conflict Assessment Workshop took place in Kigali to conduct an overview analysis of the context of Rwanda, Burundi and the Eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to better understand if and how the CPS Program of GIZ and its new Regional Component can contribute to the mitigation of conflict and building peace in this region. CRASPD intern Floriane Niyungeko participated and reported back to the Center.

In the follow-up of a half-day introduction of the Nonviolent Communication approach at the Professional Group Meeting of GIZ-CPS in November 2016, a 1-day training on “Speaking Peace at Work” for the Local Peace Advisors from all GIZ-CPS Rwanda partner organizations was facilitated by the IPA of CRASPD. Upon request of the respective partner organizations, the IPA facilitated 2 other Nonviolent Communication (NVC) trainings: 1) A 3-day training on Nonviolent Communication and tools that can be used in conflict mediation for 20 Abunzi (traditional leaders) and Abahuzi (persons acting as mediators in their

communities) from Kigeme Refugee Camp and Kigeme Cell, organized by the GIZ-CPS Refugee Component (May 31 – June 2, 2017); and 2) a 5-day training for the staff of the Organization of Rwandan Trauma Counselors (ARCT Ruhuka) on Nonviolent Communication and how they can use this approach in their daily work and especially in an upcoming project concerning families in conflict in Gicumbi, north of Rwanda (June 12 -16, 2017).

In August and November, 2 meetings of all IPAs of GIZ-CPS Rwanda took place to update each other on program and administrative issues, as well as the arrival of new colleagues and phasing out of others. The November meeting was part of the GIZ General Assembly in which the IPA participated.

As the follow-up of a half-day introduction of the Nonviolent Communication approach at the Professional Group Meeting of GIZ-CPS in November 2016, and the 5-day training for the staff of the Organization of Rwandan Trauma Counselors (ARCT Ruhuka) in June 2017 on Nonviolent Communication (mentioned above), IPA facilitated a workshop for the clarifications of roles in the ARCT team on July 21, 2017 in Kigali.

### **1.3 Recruitment of Local Peace Advisor**

In November 2017, CRASPD/PIASS and GIZ-CPS furthered their cooperation through the recruitment of Local Peace Advisor (LPA), a PIASS employee whose salary is supported by GIZ-CPS under a local subsidy contract between the two organizations. Working as a counter part of the IPA, the newly employed LPA will support the design, implementation and evaluation of CRASPD - CPS activities contributing to the cooperation.

The recruitment procedures followed were:

- The job advertisement of the position for a LPA was jointly developed by the coordinator of CRASPD and the coordinator of CPS-Rwanda and later endorsed by the Vice Chancellor of PIASS.
- The advertisement was posted on the PIASS notice board and website on September 18, 2017.
- A total of 21 applications were received by the deadline of October 6, 2017.
- The four most competent candidates were invited to take a written exam and an interview at PIASS on October 11, 2017.
- The applicants were ranked according to the combination of the written exam and interview results. As a result, Floriane Niyungeko, then a graduation candidate of bachelor's degree program in Peace and Conflict Studies at PIASS, was ranked the first and the committee unanimously agreed to recommend PIASS to recruit her for the position of LPA with the starting date of November 1, 2017.

Floriane Niyungeko joined the CRASPD team on November 1, 2017 after she successfully graduated from the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at PIASS with first-class honors on October 26, 2017.

## 2. Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP)

Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) is a training program enabling participants to deal with potentially violent situations in new, positive and creative ways. In sessions on sharing experiences, exploring one's own and others' capacities and participating in experience-based exercises and role play activities, participants increase their skills in affirmation (enhancing self-respect), communication (especially in conflict), cooperation (community building), and conflict resolution.

An AVP Basic Workshop was conducted at PIASS, Huye Campus, on Jan 17 – 19, 2017 with a Facilitators' Team consisting of Dr. Penine Uwimbabazi (Lecturer at PIASS), Eddy Kalisa (President of AVP Committee Rwanda), and Anne Dietrich (IPA of GIZ-CPS / CRASPD). This AVP Basic workshop brought together 11 male and 9 female participants, 12 of them students of bachelor's program of Peace and Conflict Studies at PIASS, 1 staff member of PIASS, 1 member of PIASS Peace Club, 1 staff member of Good Neighbors Rwanda Huye Office, 1 staff member of Never Again Rwanda Huye Office, a field officer of Association Modeste & Innocent (AMI), the Director of Mental Health Dignity Foundation (MHDF), 1 staff member of Association Rwandaise des Conseillers en Traumatisme (ARCT) Ruhuka working in Kigeme Refugee Camp, and 1 IPA of GIZ-CPS working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Huye.

An Advanced Level Workshop was conducted at PIASS, Huye Campus, on March 17 – 19, 2017, with persons who had completed an AVP Basic Level Workshop, either organized by PIASS or another organization in previous years. The Advanced Level Workshop was conducted by the same team as the Basic Workshop. Fifteen participants completed the Advanced Level Workshop. Among them were 6 women and 9 men, 11 of them were students from PIASS, and the other 4 were from NGOs (Child Fund, AMI, MHDF, and ARCT Ruhuka). In a consensus building exercise, the group had identified "Critical Thinking, Disobedience, and Trust Building in the Community" as the focus topic for this AVP Advanced Workshop. A re-introduction of "Transforming Power" was given and experiences were shared with regard to how it is transforming lives of participants. They described how they learn and practice to expect the best, think before reacting,



AVP advanced level (group photo)

respect oneself and care for others, and seek for nonviolent solutions. After this, the focus topic was explored in different practical exercises and a series of plays in the Forum Theater methodology. On the last day, participants shared their experiences from the workshop and how they could apply what they learned to their daily lives. One applicable experience that was shared by one of the participants was that stepping in and making one's voice heard can interrupt oppressive or violently escalating situations. Many said that they wish to initiate AVP workshops in various places, such as their communities, with youth in their area, and in



schools, because they feel that this approach can support the communities to have more peaceful internal and external relations and contribute to increased fairness and equality in society.

In collaboration with AVP Rwanda, Dr. Penine and the IPA organized an AVP Facilitators' Refresher and Networking Training in Kiberinka Cultural Center in Kigali, May 12-14, 2017, with 14 Rwandan AVP facilitators, among them the Coordinator of AVP Rwanda. An experienced AVP Facilitator from Kenya supported the effort by not only contributing his outside view of the Rwandan AVP program but also his experiences and shared some of the ways things are done in AVP Kenya. This training helped the PIASS team to connect more to the group of Rwandan AVP facilitators and to develop a way forward for more networking and cooperation with them.

Another AVP Basic Workshop with 16 participants was conducted at PIASS on the weekend June 9-11, 2017, with the majority of participants being the first-year students of Peace & Conflict Studies. Two facilitators from the Rwandan AVP program joined the team, one from Byumba, in the North of the country, and 1 from Kigali. The highlights of this workshop, according to the team's evaluation, were the role plays on situations of escalating conflict and exploring how Transforming Power can help prevent or deescalate violence and to find constructive resolutions of conflict. The role plays were done in 3 language groups, each supported by one of the facilitators, one in Kinyarwanda, one in French, and one in English, so that participants could chose the one they were most comfortable with. This contributed to a more authentic play and more intensive learning experience.

A further AVP Advanced Level Workshop was conducted in August 16-18, 2017 in order to increase the number of potential candidates for an AVP Training of Facilitators that was scheduled in the last quarter of 2017 at PIASS. The AVP Advanced Level Workshop involved persons who had completed an AVP Basic Level Workshop, either organized by PIASS or another organization. The team of facilitators was composed of Dr. Penine Uwimbabazi, Eddy Kalisa Nyarwara, the President of AVP Rwanda, Innocent Kamanzi, one of the more experienced facilitators of AVP Rwanda and HROC GLR, and Anne Dietrich, IPA at CRASPD/PIASS. Due to conflicts with other commitments caused by some changes in the PIASS teaching schedule, only 11 participants completed the workshop. Among them were 8 women and 3 men, 7 of them students at PIASS, and the other 4 coming from NGOs or other types of organizations (Never Again Rwanda, Family Circle Love Lab Organization, local government, a pastor). In a consensus decision making exercise, participants decided that the focus topic for this AVP Advanced Workshop would be "strengthening skills to use nonviolent communication in conflict and for dealing with anger." In the evaluation, participants



Participants of AVP facilitators training

pointed out that they find Nonviolent Communication useful for their daily life and their future career as peace builders, but that it needs much more practice and training to really master it.

On the weekend of October 13-15, a Training of Facilitators (ToF) was organized: The ToF team, in collaboration with the Coordinator and President of AVP Rwanda, had a hard time to select a number of less than 18 persons to invite for the Training of Facilitators from the many participants who had completed various AVP Advanced Level Workshops organized mainly by PIASS but also by other organizations in previous years. The challenge was not only to look at capacities and interests of potential participants, but also at gender balance and the inclusion of students from different countries in the region, as well as graduates and staff of NGOs in the South. Sixteen people completed the ToF, 9 of them male and 7 female, 3 from Burundi, 6 from the DRC, and 7 from Rwanda—2 residents of Kigeme Refugee Camp, 4 staff of NGO's (Child Fund Rwanda, Never Again Rwanda, Family Circles Love Lab Organization, ARCT Ruhuka), and 1 PIASS graduate who is now working for a government institution. The ToF-Team consisted of Dr. Penine Uwimbabazi, Innocent Rwabuhiri (the Coordinator of AVP Rwanda), Rachel Bugenimana (one of the experienced facilitators of AVP Rwanda from Eglise Evangelique des Amies de Rwanda and LPA in the GIZ-CPS Refugee Component) and Anne Dietrich (IPA of GIZ-CPSat CRASPD/PIASS). The core part of the ToF was 1.5 days where 4 teams of four participants engaged in a facilitation practice: each team facilitated sessions of 2 hours maximum and received feedback from each other, the plenary, and the ToF Team.

In discussing the way forward, the ToF Team explained that, together with experienced AVP facilitators, the new “Apprentice AVP Facilitators/ Learning AVP Facilitators” can join teams to conduct AVP Basic Workshops. Workshops can be initiated and organized by anybody/ any organization, as long as the country coordinator, e.g. in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, or Burundi (the countries participants come from) is informed. The contact details of the ToF Team and the AVP Rwanda were shared, and the team promised to help with contact to the Congo and Burundi AVP Coordination.

### **3. Support for PIASS Peace Club**

#### **3.1 Trauma First Aid Training**

PIASS Peace Club, in collaboration with CRASPD, conducted a workshop, “Nonviolent Conflict Transformation Briefing,” during 2 half-days to familiarize participants of the subsequent Trauma First Aid Training in February 2017 with:

- Concepts of conflict and violence
- Dimensions of violence
- Nonviolent conflict transformation (and sub topics like conflict analysis and different mechanisms to deal with conflict like negotiation, arbitration, mediation)
- Cycles of violence or cycles of peace – where we can make a difference

- Nonviolent Communication: a language of life

Nineteen students from different students' clubs based in PIASS, 12 of them male and 7 female, attended the workshop which was facilitated by the Peace Club President, Floriane Niyungeko, and Anne Dietrich, IPA at CRASPD.



CRASPD, in collaboration with PIASS Peace Club, held a Trauma First Aid Training for members of the Peace Club and students who are members of other students' clubs ahead of the 2017 Commemoration period. The objectives of the training were to support PIASS (especially during the commemoration period) to take care of people going through emotional crises that may arise, to prepare a group of PIASS students to help others in their clubs to achieve self-care, and to increase the knowledge and skills of helping those experiencing emotional crises.

Sixteen students, 10 male and 6 female, participated. They came from PIASS Peace Club, PIASS Student Union, Association des Étudiants Réscapés du Génocide (Genocide Survivors' Student Organization) and Isooko student club. The workshop took place on February 21–22, and February 28–March 1, 2017 and was led by 2 Trauma Therapists, Dr. Joséphine Mukabera (Lecturer at PIASS) and Thérèse Uwitonze from MHDF. After an introduction into the concepts of mental health and trauma, the symptoms of emotional crisis, the importance of self-care for trauma first aiders and differentiations between first aid and therapy, the team guided participants through learning and practicing techniques to focus one's mind and calm one's spirit, as well as relaxation practices. These techniques that include working with the body and mind as well as the emotional functions of the brain were shown as helpful ways to deal with tension, stress and emotional upsets. The training also showed methods to support people experiencing emotional crises. A follow-up training day, to refresh knowledge and skills and to prepare the newly trained "Mental Health Advisors", was conducted by the 2 trainers on May 5, one day before the PIASS 2017 Genocide Commemoration. Together with their trainers, the students did an excellent job supporting those who were suffering from emotional crises during the 2-day Genocide Commemoration event at PIASS on May 6 and 7. They were even invited to and supported the Commemoration in Mubiligi Secondary School in Huye.

### **3.2 Proposal and Report Writing Training**

The IPA facilitated a training in proposal and report writing skills on May 21 and a planning on May 25 for the members of PIASS Peace Club Committee to establish a work plan for the Peace Club. Ongoing and planned activities of CRASPD, in cooperation with the Peace Club, are study trips to the Kigeme Refugee Camp and to an organization working with former child soldiers in Gulu / Uganda, the organization of a competition by the Peace Club to design a logo for CRASPD, a training on mobile reporting, diverse seminars, an Excel Training for

the Committee of the Peace Club, and supporting the preparation of the General Assembly of the Peace Club in August—which included elections for a new committee.

### 3.3 Peace Journalism Workshop

CRASPD and PIASS Peace Club jointly organized a workshop on peace journalism on June 30 – July 2, 2017 at PIASS. The 22 participants consisted of students of Peace and Conflicts Studies and PIASS Peace Club members. Claus Schrowange, a member of EIRENE-Great Lakes working in Burundi for a media organization, Maison de la Presse du Burundi, conducted the workshop as the main trainer alongside two Burundian journalists, Rémy Harerimana, Director at Télé Renaissance and Olivia Gakima, a Burundian journalist based in Kigali.



While the media may act as a watchdog to protect public interest against malpractice and create public awareness, it may be used to spread hatred, discrimination and violence in society. Under the concept of “war journalism,” journalists only report about the negative side of conflicts. This kind of journalism may lead audiences to overvalue violent responses to conflict and ignore nonviolent alternatives, which will end up contributing to the perpetuation of the cycle of violence in society. “Peace journalism,” on the other hand, attempts to maximize media’s possible positive contributions to peacebuilding by creating opportunities for society at large to consider and value nonviolent responses to conflict. The purpose of the workshop was to equip participants with skills and abilities to promote peace through the use of media.

On the first day of the workshop, participants discussed the role of the media after watching two videos “Karamoja in the Eyes of Her Children” and “Mursi People in Ethiopia”. One of the lessons learned was that media can contribute, either positively or negatively, to the dynamics of conflict and peace in a given society.

The second day of the workshop began with a session of singing national anthems of the countries participants came from, namely, Rwanda, Burundi, the DRC, and South Sudan. The group representing each respective nationality sang its own national anthem in front of the participants with other nationalities. Through this session, the main trainer underlined the main objective of communication. The message must have a sender and a receiver. Media tools can be verbal as well as nonverbal: television, radio and social media such as Facebook, search engines and so on. Media and journalists can then influence people’s negative or positive behaviors. The polarization of the image of the enemy can be easily transmitted through media by dehumanizing the other or portraying the good vs. the bad image.





In the next session, Rémy Harerimana introduced participants to “Mobile Reporting,” the method of developing and transmitting a news report using a mobile phone. Mobile reporting consists of using available items such as a mobile phone to report events. “Story-maker” is one of the applications used for mobile reporting for audio or/and video reporting. The Burundian journalist introduced participants to the principles of using images in reporting. He helped them to download the

application, learn how to use it and explain opportunities the application can offer, as well as possible challenges the user might face. In the following session, participants used the application and created a short report based on what they learned.

In the evening session of the second day, the main trainer demonstrated how media can be violence oriented or peace oriented using the table below:

<b>Violence oriented</b>	<b>Peace/Solution oriented</b>
Polarization	Empathy
Propaganda	Truth
Elite	People
Victory	Solution

Peace journalism can depict violence but with a solution oriented approach. It responds to the 5 W’s: who, when, why, where, what. The main trainer explained in detail how theatre (participatory theatre) can be a media tool as well. He shared his various experiences in theatre and how it can be used for peacebuilding.

During the third day of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to listen to two Burundian journalists, Rémy Harerimana and Olivia Gakima, about their experiences of working in a violent context during the Burundian political crisis in 2015. Gakima also shared her experience as an exiled journalist in Rwanda and the challenges faced in her work. The two journalists also helped participants to understand the importance of numeric security (phones, computers, social media accounts). Different security mechanisms were introduced and explained for daily use.

The students of peace and conflict studies and Peace Club members benefitted enormously from the 3-day workshop which provided them with the knowledge and skills required for practicing peace journalism both theoretically (insight on the principles of peace journalism) and practically (mobile reporting, video making and editing).

### 3.4 Training on Microsoft Excel

The IPA at CRASPD facilitated a training on the use of the Excel calculation program for the members of the Peace Club Committee on July 21, 2017. The purpose of this training was to provide the committee members of the Peace Club with the skills of using Microsoft Excel to better equip them for the budgeting of club activities. This was particularly helpful, as the training occurred at the time the Peace Club Committee was producing their financial report.

## 4. Support for Nyanza Women Association

### 4.1 Follow Up of Flower Production

This is a follow up of the activities of Umucyo Nyanza (“Light of Nyanza”), a womens association working together in Nyanza for reconciliation and development. The group consists of 15 women coming from both sides of the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994 (survivors and wives of genocide perpetrators). Since October 2015, this group has been producing and selling flowers as their income generating activity. The objective of working together is that there is a need for restoring the broken relationships caused due to the genocide and to improve their economic condition by becoming economically self-reliant.



Planting flower bulbs

In January this year, the group struggled with how they could expand their flower garden, so they rented a new piece of land on which they planted flowers to increase future incomes. On February 21, 2017, the group planted different flower seeds, but a prolonged dry season made it inevitable for the women to water their garden frequently using watering cans. Another challenge they faced was the lack of stable access to markets where they could sell harvested flowers on a continual basis. Without having their own shop, the group sold their flowers to a few flower shops in Nyanza town.

Activities of flower production intensified in October as the rainy season started. The group applied manure to the flower garden and planted additional seeds/bulbs for the 2018 harvesting season. On October 31, a total of 22 members of PIASS Peace Club offered their helping hand to the women in the garden through carrying manure from its source to the garden and planting flower seeds/bulbs.



Woman with harvested flowers

After 3 hours of hard work, the group of students sat together with the women for a relatively short discussion, which consisted of words of appreciation for the cooperation of the students and the hard work they

accomplished together. The women appreciated the students for their help and also shared with them how exiting and encouraging it was for them to meet young people who are committed to work for peace and development.

The students expressed their joy of working together with the women even though it was physically very demanding. One student from South Sudan said that he had never been involved in agriculture related activities apart from looking after cows. According to him, in his country especially in his area, it is only women who work in the fields whereas men are responsible for looking after cows. He testified that after realizing considerable hardships involved in such activities, he came to believe that women in his country should not work in the fields alone but be helped by men who are physically stronger than women.

#### **4.2 Empower Rehabilitation Workshop**

This training was organized by CRASPD in collaboration with Christian Action for Reconciliation and Social Assistance (CARSA) and funded by Compelled by Love (CbL), an Australian NGO supporting healing and reconciliation initiatives for Rwandan people. The aim of the training was to equip the members of Umucyo Nyanza with knowledge and skills about trauma healing. This was the continuation of the trauma



Women sharing their life experiences

healing workshop which took place in Nyanza last year in March. The purpose of having these kinds of workshops is to help women to enter the genocide commemoration week united and emotionally strong.

This workshop had 6 objectives:

1. Stabilise, manage and ameliorate current trauma symptoms.
2. De-condition traumatic memories and responses.
3. Build emotional and cognitive confidence and resilience toward future stress.
4. Help re-establish meaning, purpose and goals in life.
5. Encourage spiritual healing and social connection.
6. Reinforce the way for forgiveness and reconciliatory engagement between genocide survivors and their offenders.

Fourteen women who are members of Umucyo Nyanza, 4 students from PIASS Peace Club, and 1 staff member of CRASPD, participated in the training. It took place in Nyanza from March 21 to 29, 2017.

#### **Outcomes of the workshop**

During this workshop, participants were able to share their past experiences. They realized that keeping bad memories and feelings inside is one of the poisons that can destroy them, emotionally and physically. Even though they have been together for several years in this

women's group this empowerment workshop helped them to really know each other. This will enable them to help each other and know every person's struggles. Through these empowerment lessons, many of the participants discovered that they wounded their kids through the punishment they gave them; trauma made the parents hurt the children thinking they were raising them well.

### **4.3 Commemoration of Genocide in Nyanza May 2, 2017**

This commemoration was done by women together with 25 PIASS students many of whom are members of the Peace Club. The reason why this genocide commemoration was special was because the women wanted enough time to commemorate their beloved ones who were killed during the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, and to share their reconciliation experience with students.

This activity was divided into two parts:

- 1) Visiting Nyanza genocide memorial site and placing flowers on it.
- 2) Sharing their reconciliation experience with students, and the way forward.

#### **Visiting Nyanza genocide memorial site**

The first part of the event consisted of visiting the memorial site and dedicating flowers to the victims of the genocide. This was marked by different questions that were asked by students mainly who are not Rwandan. They were interested to know who the genocide was perpetrated by in Nyanza, how Tutsis could be identified from others, and how the current situation is after 23 years since the genocide ended.



To answer these questions, the person in charge of the Nyanza Genocide Memorial explained that Rwandans were—and still are—a mixed community and the members of the community knew each other which made it easier for perpetrators to identify Tutsis. Furthermore, under the rule of the previous governments, every Rwandan was obliged to carry identity cards stating their ethnic identity, i.e Hutu, Tutsi or Twa; this made it possible for perpetrators to identify Tutsis, even those who were coming from outside Nyanza.

As far as the current situation is concerned, the person in charge of the memorial site said that for measures of justice, perpetrators were arrested and faced justice especially through Gacaca courts (those who were in Rwanda) and others were taken to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) that took place in Arusha/Tanzania (especially those who were arrested outside of Rwanda).



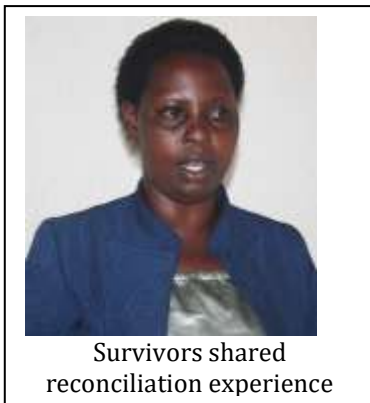
For measures of reconciliation, there are several mechanisms that were established to deal with this issue of living together after the genocide. Among those was the establishment of National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, Ndi Umunyarwanda (I am Rwandan) program and others. All of these programs were established in order to encourage reconciliation and the restoration of the broken relationships among Rwandans.



Wives of offenders shared reconciliation experience

After visiting the memorial and putting flowers on the memorial site, the women had enough time to remember their families and relatives by saying their names and whatever they can remember about them. This gave them a great time to recall different memories about their beloved ones, and some PIASS students who participated in the Trauma First Aid Training were there to comfort those who experienced emotional crises.

### Sharing reconciliation experience with students



Survivors shared reconciliation experience

After the visit of the genocide memorial site, women and students gathered together in a guesthouse in Nyanza for them to share their experiences about reconciliation, as well as different lessons students learned from working together with the women in Nyanza at their flower garden. This time the women shared how their relationship has improved as they work together.

Apart from sharing how far their relationship has come, they also talked about different challenges that they are facing in terms of their income generating activity through their flower production and decoration business. One of the biggest challenges they are facing is that they do not have their own land for flower production.

To deal with this issue, women suggested to buy their own land, but since they are not yet a cooperative, it would be difficult to buy land as they do not have the required legal status. For this reason, they thought it would be best to find another activity (especially handcraft) that they can combine with flower production. In that regard, women suggested to have a study tour in which they have to visit different cooperatives in Kigali or other places so that they can learn from those cooperatives and gain new ideas on how they can start to produce different products from raw materials that are available in their area.

### 4.4 Study Visit about Expanding Income Generating Options

As a response to the idea of combining the flower business with other handcraft-related activities, the Umucyo Nyanza association suggested to have a study visit with the purpose of learning different ideas on how they can start craft making. On May 15, 2017, 13 members of

Umucyo Nyanza visited 2 organizations that are widely known for producing and marketing quality handcrafts, namely Azizi Life in Muhanga and Umutima Nyamirambo Women Cooperative in Kigali. CRASPD intern Floriane Niyungeko (currently, Peace Program Officer of CRASPD) and 2 other PIASS students accompanied the group of women during the study tour.

### **Visit to Azizi Life**

In the morning of May 15, the group of women from Nyanza visited Azizi life in Muhanga where they saw a lot of products made mainly from local raw materials like banana leaves, palm leaves, sisal, etc. The Nyanza group appreciated what Azizi was doing and they were inspired by the artisan experts of Azizi. The experts encouraged them to start by producing small products by using materials that are available in their area, and as their skills increase they will improve the quality of their products. One artisan expert agreed to help them develop their skills so that they can start creating some products.

The management of Azizi told the group that as long as they can produce high quality products, they can establish a partnership with Azizi and their products can be sold in their stores. To establish the partnership with Azizi, the group was advised to register as a cooperative because Azizi cannot buy their products unless they are a cooperative.

### **Visit at Nyamirambo Women’s Center**

After visiting Azizi Life, the women from Nyanza visited Nyamirambo Women’s Center (NWC) in which the cooperative Umutima is operating. NWC employs women from the community to create a large variety of women’s accessories, children’s clothing, and home decor products. The women from Nyanza visited this center in order to enlarge their understanding on how they can start a handcraft business. The leader of this center shared with the Nyanza group their experience on how they started and their struggles in making the center sustainable. The group visited the shop as well as the workshop to see how the members of Umutima cooperative work.



Visiting Nyamirambo Women’s Center

The women were advised to work under collective benefits, to choose transparent leaders, and save money to start their business. They were also advised to identify a market—in which they could sell their products—and customers, produce high-quality goods, establish themselves as a cooperative that can deal with many customers. The group was advised to start small and grow bigger while developing their creativity which will make them unique.

### **Debriefing meeting after the visit**

After the visit, the women of Umucyo Nyanza had a debriefing to share what they had learned and discuss the way forward. In the debriefing they mentioned that:

- their imagination was enhanced.
- they understood that their environment could support their work.
- they wanted to start small.
- they were interested in becoming a cooperative.
- they need a shop for selling flowers and handcrafts.

#### **Next steps:**

- Discuss with the women if they want to be a cooperative, association, or independent. What are the criteria for each? What are their priorities? Do their priorities align with the criteria?
- A 2 to 3-year project proposal and budget need to be developed and finalized by the end of July 2017.
- The women need information on the requirements of becoming an association or cooperative and the necessary steps for selling products outside Rwanda (website for example).

#### **4.5 Youth Peace-Building Workshop**

On August 7-9, 2017, CRASPD organized a peace-building workshop targeting the children of the women who belong to Umucyo Nyanza. This 3-day workshop held in the hall of Nyanza Peace Academy involved 16 young people (12 girls and 4 boys) who consisted of 11 children of women who are genocide survivors and 5 children of women who are wives of



genocide perpetrators. The ages of the young people ranged from 15 and 25. The workshop aimed to help these two groups of youth to learn together peace-building approaches, start building relationships and dissolve mutual stereotypes, thereby building the basis for a peaceful coexistence in their community. The workshop was facilitated by the team of Anne Dietrich, IPA of GIZ-CPS at CRASPD and Muvuyi Serge, Assistant Coordinator of CRASPD. Robert Nkizinshuro, one of the senior students in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at PIASS joined the team to practice facilitation skills.

After the team members introduced themselves, participants were asked to be in a pair with another participant whom they did not know, or knew very little, and share their name, where they came from, one stupid or funny thing they had done in their life, and one personal strength. Then, participants had the opportunity to share what they would personally like to learn from the workshop. The main topics participants learned during the 3-day workshop are briefly described as follows:

#### **Responses to conflict**

In order to explore the concept of conflict and different ways of responding to conflict, participants engaged in a series of exercises, sharing of personal experiences, and group discussions.

### **Violence barometer**

Situations were read out, and participants placed themselves on a scale from 0 to 100% according to the level that they personally agreed to or disagreed with each statement. Some participants then explained the reasons they took their. The debriefing of the exercise highlighted that there are many different ways to perceive violence and many different kinds of violence that can be equally harmful.

### **Managing anger**

In this exercise, participants shared experiences on how and when they feel angry and what the source of the anger is . Then, they developed some ideas on how they can deal with their anger in a way that does not lead to violence against themselves or others, rather in a way that helps to resolve the issues that have triggered the anger.

### **Forum theater**

An introduction to Augusto Boal’s Forum Theater approach was given, and it was explained that this form of theatre always looks at three different roles someone can assume in a situation of conflict escalation and violence: victim, oppressor, and passive observer. In small groups, participants then shared situations from their own experience where conflict escalates and selected one of them to present it in a role play. After distributing the roles and doing a rehearsal of their role play, the groups presented it in the plenary. At certain points, a facilitator would stop the play and ask the audience what they had seen and heard and encouraged them to come up with alternative ways of responding to the situation, particularly with regard to what the passive observer could say or do in order to de-escalate the situation.

### **The way forward and workshop evaluation**

A brainstorming session was held to identify things the group would like to do or see happening in the follow-up of the workshop. Then, participants evaluated the workshop, especially commenting on what could be done better next time. The workshop was concluded with a word of prayer and some time of dancing.

### **4.6 Animal Banking for Women in Nyanza**

In September 2016, a group of Japanese Christians visited the women of Umucyo Nyanza. Using a donation of 300,000 Rwandan francs (approximately 370 US dollars) from the Japanese group, Umucyo Nyanza launched a small project of animal banking for helping members to increase their economic condition. On January 20, 2017, 5 goats were bought and the 3 remaining goats were bought on February 06, 2017.



As it was agreed, 8 members who got goats for the first round should share their offspring with other members. As of December 2017, 12 out of 15 members of the group have already received goats.

#### **4.7 Handcraft Making**

During the 2-month period from the end of August 2017, the members of Umucyo Nyanza engaged in handcraft making as their new income generating activity with the help of Megumi Sasaki (the wife of Dr. Sasaki), Japanese students from PIASS and Joyce Mpuhwezayo, a Rwandan student of Peace and Conflict Studies at PIASS.



They gathered for this activity every Wednesday afternoon at Nyanza Peace Academy, a local private primary school. As a result, 120 colorful book covers were made out of kitenge fabric, which were later sold by Dr. and Mrs. Sasaki as they visited churches in different parts of Japan in November. The profits generated from the sale of these book covers reached 660,000

Rwandese francs or approximately 800 US dollars. The group distributed a half of the money among its members, which enabled them to pay the annual premium of national health insurance for their families, while the remaining half was saved in the group's bank account for their future income generating activities.

This book cover making was a response to the women's expressed need for an income generating activity in addition to flower production. There is hope that the income they gain from selling book covers in the coming months will help the group to run a sustainable handcraft making project with which they can produce other items. The women are currently discussing the possibility of renting a property to use as a workshop for producing various handcrafts and a shop for selling those products and flowers.

#### **4.8 The Way Forward**

With the purpose of helping this group to achieve their objectives, CRASPD plans to continue supporting them in both peace and reconciliation and economic self-reliance. It is in this regard that the following activities are planned to be conducted in 2018 as a step forward to the establishment of a cooperative:

- Book cover making and other handcraft activities
- Tailoring training
- Training in cooperative management
- Helping the group develop marketing strategies to maximize income from the sale of flowers and other products.



To ensure the sustainability of the transgenerational relationships, CRASPD will continue to work with the children of the women by organizing trainings and workshops which will help them stay connected to each other.

CRASPD will continue to involve PIASS students in a range of activities such as trainings, workshops, field activities for and with the women in Nyanza and their children. To support all of those activities, a 3-year project proposal was developed and submitted to the Japanese mission support group that has already expressed their willingness to raise funds for supporting the women in their reconciliation and development initiatives. There is hope that by the end of the first quarter of 2018, the proposal will be approved and the planned activities will be implemented in the next 3 years.

## **5. Other Activities Involving CRASPD**

### **5.1 Seminar on Acknowledgement and Apology for Genocide Perpetrators**

On January 31, a seminar was organized by CRASPD for 15 genocide offenders who are members of a pig cooperative in which both survivors and perpetrators of the genocide against the Tutsi work together in Kirehe district. The cooperative is one of the two which were established in 2013 as the fruit of a restorative justice and reconciliation ministry of a local Christian NGO called Reconciliation Evangelism And Christian Healing (REACH). As the former staff member of REACH, Dr. Kazuyuki Sasaki is still in close contact with the members of the cooperatives. The seminar was organized to encourage the offenders to acknowledge and apologize for what they did during the genocide as one way to enhance the process of reconciliation in the local community. Dr. Sasaki, Serge Muvunyi (Assistant Coordinator of CRASPD) and Berenice Dukuzimana (a graduate of Peace and Conflict Studies in PIASS) worked together as a team of facilitators for the seminar.

#### **Objectives of the Seminar**

1. Reflect on their own journey towards healing and reconciliation.
2. Deepen their understanding about the importance of acknowledgement and apology for restoring relationships with survivors they harmed during the genocide.
3. Discuss the way forward for further strengthening their relationships with survivors in the same cooperative and in their community.

In this seminar, participants understood the importance of apologizing, and they learned how they can sincerely apologize to the genocide survivors who are in the same cooperative or community. It was observed that some offenders did not adequately realize the victims' need of knowing the truth about what happened and having their experience of pain and loss acknowledged properly. In this cooperative, there was 1 female genocide



Seminar participants with facilitators

survivor to whom some offenders had not apologized individually, even though they had been working together over the past 4 years.

### **Seminar's Outcomes**

After this seminar, with the help of Dr. Sasaki, there was a follow-up meeting with 6 offenders from the cooperative who wanted to apologize to the survivor. The purpose of this meeting was to hear what those 6 people wanted to tell her and to help them be well-prepared for taking a step toward in making a sincere apology. As a result of the meeting, 5 of 6 decided to apologize to the survivor after they helped her in field activities. A few weeks later, 2 of the 5 perpetrators worked in the field of the survivor as an act of reparation. Both of them expressed their desire to organize a gathering to apologize for the wrongs they committed against the survivor and her family during the genocide.

### **5.2 Coordinating a Documentary Film on Reconciliation at the Grassroots**

CRASPD coordinated the project of a documentary film production on the reconciliation process from the grassroots level. The film was produced by NHK, a widely known public broadcasting corporation in Japan, under the direction of Ms. Urara Kato, a former Japanese student of Peace and Conflict Studies at PIASS. This documentary entitled “Living as Neighbors after the Genocide” depicted the difficult challenges faced by both survivors and perpetrators of the genocide against the Tutsi in their struggle for living together as neighbors in a rural village in Kirehe District. It featured several participants of the restorative justice and reconciliation program in which Dr. Sasaki has been involved for the last 12 years. The main part of the filming took 14 days, from January 28 to February 11, 2017. The documentary was broadcasted on one of NHK’s satellite channels twice in March.

### **5.3 Healing & Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) International Training**

Serge Muvunyi (Assistant Coordinator of CRASPD) and Anne Dietrich (GIZ-CPS IPA at CRASPD), participated in the 3 weeks international training in Healing and Rebuilding of Our Communities (HROC) from June 26 to July 15, 2017. The purpose outlined in the invitation reads “to train facilitators in the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities program developed in Rwanda and Burundi for psycho-social healing of individuals and society after deadly conflict. Fourteen people from Rwanda, the DRC, Burundi, Kenya and Chad participated in this training that was hosted in Musanze at HROC training center. The workshop was facilitated by 3 facilitators (2 Rwandans and 1 Kenyan). To learn more about the program please visit [www.aglifpt.org/Program/hroc.htm](http://www.aglifpt.org/Program/hroc.htm).”



The prospective of starting this program at PIASS are now becoming clearer, as we have included a HROC Basic Workshop in the proposal for the project to the Japanese Mission Support Group funding some of the activities of CRASPD. We would like to conduct this workshop with the children of the women who are members in the Umucyo Women Peace & Reconciliation Group, composed of genocide survivors and wives whose husbands are in prison under genocide crime charges. We are also considering how to include this approach in other community services of CRASPD in the upcoming academic year. One activity we would like to conduct, after the new Committee of the Peace Club will have been elected in October, is a seminar in collaboration with the PIASS Peace Club to raise awareness about this approach and consulting with the Club, lecturers and students on how we can integrate it in our activities.

### **III. OUTLOOK**

With regard to visits and networking, CRASPD will continue to keep up the links established, and inviting former graduates and staff of NGOs working in the fields of peace and development to join seminars and trainings.

Collaboration with GIZ-CPS will be developed further and contribute to efforts of the planning, monitoring and evaluation of CRASPD's activities. The LLPA recruited in November 2017 will be working closely with the IPA in developing a proposal of a local subsidy project for 2018 and implementing proposed activities in the project after its approval by GIZ-CPS.

As for the Alternatives to Violence Program, it will be vital to involve the newly trained "Learning Facilitators" as members of the teams of AVP facilitators from 2018 onward and support them to introduce the program in their own communities and organizations.

Different kinds of support to PIASS Peace Club will continue in 2018 with an increased emphasis on its capacity building to plan and implement a range of activities for the promotion of peace on and off campus.

The support for Umucyo Nyanza will continue to consolidate and expand its income generating activities—flower production and marketing, animal banking, and handcraft making. As mentioned above, a project proposal has been submitted to the Japanese mission support group. This project proposal includes components to form a cooperative and market their products; establish training activities and seminars to enhance their skills in production, marketing and cooperative management; and conduct workshops for the women and their children.