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# BIANNUAL WORK REPORT (January – June 2018)

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Development (CRASPD)**

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Huye, Rwanda

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## ACRONYMS

AVP	Alternatives to Violence Program
CPN	Congo Peace Network
CPS	Civil Peace Service
CRASPD	Center for Research and Action towards Sustainable Peace and Development
FDS	Faculty of Development Studies
FED	Faculty of Education
FTRS	Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies
GIZ	Deutsch Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Cooperation)
HROC	Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities
IPA	International Peace Advisor
LPA	Local Peace Advisor
MHDF	Mental Health Dignity Foundation
NVC	Nonviolent Communication
NVCT	Nonviolent Conflict Transformation
NWA	Nyanza Women Association
PIASS	Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences
PPC	PIASS Peace Club

## I. INTRODUCTION

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> biannual work report of the Center for Research and Action towards Sustainable Peace and Development (CRASPD) at the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS), for the period from January to June 2018. The report includes different activities that have been carried out by the center during this period.

The staff involved in the activities and reporting are:

- (K) Dr. Kazuyuki Sasaki, Head of Department of Peace & Conflict Studies at the Faculty of Development Studies at PIASS and Coordinator of CRASPD
- (S) Serge Muvunyi, Assistant Coordinator of CRASPD and graduate of Peace & Conflict Studies at PIASS
- (A) Anne Dietrich, International Peace Advisor (IPA) of GIZ (German Development Cooperation) Civil Peace Service (CPS) based at CRASPD
- (P) Dr. Penine Uwimbabazi, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Development Studies at PIASS and Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) Facilitator
- (F) from November 2017 onward: Floriane Niyungeko, Local Peace Advisor in GIZ (German Development Cooperation) Civil Peace Service (CPS) in the capacity of Peace Program Officer at CRASPD, and graduate of Peace & Conflict Studies at PIASS

Interns involved in activities between April 16 and June 8, 2018 are two students in the Department Peace & Conflict Studies:

- (D) David David Nyiringabo
- (Sh) Shukulu Murekatete

Volunteers

- (H) H el ene Mikanda, a year-one student in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at PIASS who was involved as a volunteer in the series of Critical Thinking Activities.

## II. OVERVIEW

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity (what, where, time, duration)</i>	<i>Involvement</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Jan-June	Follow up of the activities of Nyanza Women Association (NWA)	CRASPD	Report	
Jan-June	CRASPD Office Meetings	All	Notes	Approximately every 2 weeks
Jan-June	Book cover making activity by NWA is going on.	CRASPD	Book covers made in Kitenge are being produced.	Approximately once every week
<b>January 2018</b>				
January 8 – 10	Workshop with Youth in Nyanza	S, F and 1 PIASS Peace Club member		14 participants trained; 5 males and 9 females.
Jan 12	PIASS Peace Club Planning Day	F, A	Work plan Peace Club Committee	For newly elected Committee of PIASS Peace Club
January 15 – 17	Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) Basic Level WS Huye	P, A, and 3 new facilitators (trained in 2017)	Report	21 participants trained: students, 13 students 8 from NGOs
<b>February 2018</b>				
Feb 12 – 13	GIZ CPS Data Collection Training Kigali	F, S (participation)		
Feb 16	Research Seminar on Psychosocial Reconciliation with Prof. Masahiro Minami	K, F, S	Notes, summary on website	
Feb 23	Research Seminar “Transformation of Rural Societies in Rwanda’s Peacebuilding Process” Prof. Shinichi Takeuchi	K, F	Notes, summary on website	
Feb 28	CRASPD presentation at IMPEQ III and CEDRE Opening Ceremony	F, S, A		
<b>March 2018</b>				
March 2	Empower follow up day	S, K, F	Report	
March 7 – 10	GIZ CPS Professional Group Meeting Huye	A (prep team), F, S (participation)	Report	with all International Peace Advisors (IPA) and Local Peace Advisors (LPA) of GIZ CPS
March 8	Film Screening at International Women’s Day	F, Peace Club		
March 9 – 11	AVP Basic Level WS Huye	F, A, one of the new AVP facilitators (trained in 2017)	Report	16 participants trained: 8 students, 8 staff of NGOs
March 17	PIASS Peace Club Planning Review	F, A, PIASS Peace Club Committee	Revised PIASS Peace Club Work Plan	Update & revision of plan drafted in planning session in January 2018
<b>April 2018</b>				

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity (what, where, time, duration)</i>	<i>Involvement</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
April 17 – 18	Two half-days Nonviolent Conflict Transformation (NVCT) Briefing	F, A	Report	For Trauma First Aid trainees (see below)
April 24 – 25	Days 1&2 Student Trauma First Aid Training 2018	F, A, D, trainers: Dr. Josephine Mukabera, Thérèse Uwitonze (MHDF)	Report	For 12 students to become Mental Health Advisors
<b>May 2018</b>				
May 1	Participation in Commemoration event of NWA		Video produced by Peace Club Media Team	
May 2 – 3	Additional Skills and Refresher Training in Trauma First Aid	F, A, D, trainers: Dr. Josephine Mukabera, Thérèse Uwitonze (MHDF)	Report	12 student Mental Health Advisors who were trained in 2017 gained additional skills
May 6	Research Seminar with Fulbright Scholar Samantha Lakin	F, S, A, K, Sh, D	Notes, summary on website	more than 50 students and lecturers from PIASS and other academic institutions, as well as interested local and international participants
May 8 – 9	Days 3&4 Student Trauma First Aid Training 2018	F, A, D, trainers: Dr. Josephine Mukabera, Thérèse Uwitonze (MHDF)	Report	12 students trained to intervene as Mental Health Advisors in cases of emotional crisis
May 10	CRASPD Organizational Development Day with IPA Esther Tidjani (GIZ CPS)	F, S, A, K, Sh, D	Survey on PIASS' CRASPD perception, Photo documentation	With CRASPD office staff and 2 interns
May 14 – 18	Nonviolent Communication Africa Retreat in Gisenyi	F, S, A, K, D, CNVC trainer Dunia Hategekimana	Report, WhatsApp Group of participants	23 participants from 11 African countries
May 21	Critical Thinking Training Mini Workshop for CRASPD staff	K, S, A, F	PowerPoint Presentation	Introduction of CRASPD Team to the Critical Thinking approach in critical thinking trainings
May 22	Trauma First Aid follow-up day			
May 29 – 31	AVP Advanced Level WS Huye	F, A, one of the new AVP facilitators (trained in 2017)	Report	19 participants trained: 9 male, 10 female; 16 students, 3 staff of NGOs
<b>June 2018</b>				
June 5 – 6 & 19 – 20	Critical Thinking Training for Students I	F, A, H, D & Theoneste Ndungutse (from Never Again Rwanda)	Report	20 students from 3 faculties trained
June 8 – 12	Participation in seminar on NVC & Restorative Circles	F	Report	The seminar was facilitated by Duke

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity (what, where, time, duration)</i>	<i>Involvement</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	Laboratory Training in Germany			Duchscherer in Oldenburg/ Germany
June 20	Beginning of Tailoring activity for Umucyo Nyanza	CRASPD	7 sewing machines were bought	
June 24	Seminar on Healing & Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) Program	S, A, Rodrigue Icishatse (PIASS Peace Club)	Notes	40 participants informed about HROC
June 25	Session of Speaking Peace at Work Practice Group	F, S, A	Agreement on monthly sessions	10 participants refreshed skills in NVC at work
June 28 – 29 & July 5 – 6	Critical Thinking Training for Students II	F, H & Anna Mueller-Holtz (from Never Again Rwanda)	Report	20 students from 3 faculties trained



### **III. DETAILS**

#### **1. Visits/ Networking Efforts**

On May 4, 2018, the CRASPD team had a meeting with the Coordinator of Association Modeste et Innocent (AMI) on the topic of the upcoming release of prisoners charged with crimes related to the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. In light of our joint recognition of the enormous challenge that this will bring to the prisoners and the communities to which they are returning, it was agreed to continue finding out more about which organizations and institutions are working on this release and to discuss possible contributions we could make to smoothen the process.

#### **2. Collaboration of PIASS and GIZ Civil Peace Service**

##### **2.1 Organizational Development Day**

On May 10, 2018, Esther Tidjani, the Focal Point for Organizational Development at GIZ CPS Rwanda, facilitated a day for CRASPD team to work on our organizational development. The day was prepared by undertaking a survey about the perception of CRASPD by the PIASS community. A list of steps to take by CRASPD staff to promote the center's organizational development was established and is currently being followed up.

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

GIZ CPS Rwanda conducts regular staff meetings. In February (21 – 23), the Professional Group Meeting of all International and Local Peace Advisors of GIZ CPS Rwanda took place in Huye to update each other on program and administrative issues, as well as on the arrival of new colleagues and the phasing out of others. The IPA and LPA based at CRASPD participated in several other meetings for IPAs and for LPAs, as well as different training events and compulsory GIZ meetings (e.g., GIZ country planning).

##### **2.3 Local Subsidy Project “Enhancing Nonviolent Conflict Transformation (NVCT) Skills”**

CRASPD/PIASS developed and submitted a request for funding to GIZ CPS, in April 2018, to conduct the following activities:

- 2 half-day Nonviolent Conflict Transformation (NVCT) briefings for future Trauma First Aid training participants, mid-April 2018
- 2 two-day Refresher Training for additional Trauma First Aid skills for interested students over a period of 2 weeks, by late April 2018 for student Trauma First Aiders/ Mental Health Advisors trained in 2017, 3 days
- Facilitation of Internship for two PIASS students at Mental Health Dignity Foundation (MHDF) to participate in MHDF field activities as trained Trauma First Aiders
- AVP Refresher Training I: 3 days in early July 2018, with new AVP Facilitators who were trained in October 2017
- AVP Advanced Workshop I: 3 days in May 2018 for those who attended Basic WSs and wish to continue. Teams were comprised of new and more experienced facilitators.
- AVP Advanced Workshop II: 3 days that spanned across July and August 2018 for those who attended Basic WSs and wish to continue. Teams were comprised of new and more experienced facilitators.
- AVP Training of Facilitators: 3 full days in September 2018 (if possible before PIASS Graduation), for those among the 15 participants of the Advanced Workshops 2017/18 who wish to continue
- Participation of a group of AVP Facilitators from South Rwanda in the AVP Regional Africa Gathering in Uganda in August 2018 (August 20 – 24)
- Speaking Peace at Work Seminar for PIASS staff and interested pastors (2 x 2 days across 2 subsequent weeks) on applying Nonviolent Communication (NVC) at the work place

- Regular practice meetings for the participants of the Speaking Peace at Work/ NVC workshop (one in June, one in August, one in October 2018)
- Organization of African NVC Retreat for 5 days in May 2018
- Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) Seminar during the second week of April 2018
- Two four-day Critical Thinking trainings for students and PIASS staff in June and July 2018
- Discussion sessions to foster Critical thinking among students in September 2018
- Seminar on Critical thinking with PIASS lecturers in August 2018
- Workshop on Conflict Sensitivity with Organizations in September 2018

The proposal, including the budget, was accepted with minor changes, and the CRASPD team is currently implementing the activities; please find more in the respective sections of this report. Contrary to last year's project, all except one activity—the NVC Africa Retreat—were approved to be administratively managed by PIASS, and, unlike last year, not through GIZ direct procurement. This may be evidence that GIZ trusts that PIASS is capable of spending the funds in a responsible and accountable manner and will submit reports promptly and correctly.

### 3. CRASPD Seminars

To foster academic exchange and to promote cooperation between research and practice, CRASPD is holding seminars on different topics that are of interest to PIASS and surrounding communities. We invite various scholars and practitioners to lead these seminars.

#### 3.1. Research Seminar on Psychosocial Reconciliation with Prof. Masahiro Minami



On February 16, 2018, CRASPD organized a research seminar at PIASS on psychosocial reconciliation titled “Ubwiyunge mu Bikorwa (Reconciliation in Action) – Development and Field Piloting of an Action-Based Psychosocial Reconciliation Approach in Post-Gacaca Rwanda: A Phenomenological Exploration” with Prof. Masahiro Minami, Assistant Professor of Counselling Psychology at Simon Fraser University in Canada, as the guest speaker. 47 people (24 males and 23 females) composed of PIASS students, academic staff, and staff of organizations working in Rwanda attended this seminar.

Dr. Minami, a registered clinical counsellor specialized in Morita therapy and Zen therapy, presented results of the field research he conducted in Mbyo, Bugesera District, Rwanda. Prof. Minami explained how he practiced the Action-Based Psychosocial Reconciliation Approach (ABPRA) during his field research. In short, this approach promotes healing based on actions that bring the offender and the victim to do activities together (i.e., contact theory). The results of the research he presented were: shared joy for both perpetrators and survivors, healing, the re-humanization of perpetrators, the reduced fear of survivors, and the psychosocial development which is witnessed by the community through joint actions of the pairs (perpetrator-survivor). In the questions and answers' session, it was discussed that sometimes victims force themselves to forgive because of their cultural and/or religious values. However, it was then acknowledged that forgiveness should be perceived as a choice, not an obligation. The seminar was an interesting event to the participants because it presented new perspectives and advancements for practical reconciliation.

More about Professor Minami and his work can be found at <https://www.sfu.ca/education/faculty-profiles/mminami/academic-background/education.html>

### **3.2. Seminar on Inspirational Japanese**

The seminar was an experience-sharing session by Floriane Niyungeko, a graduate of PIASS currently working at CRASPD and former PIASS Peace Club president, and Dr. Kazuyuki Sasaki, Coordinator of CRASPD, who also gave a supportive hand during the seminar. Floriane shared about two Japanese who inspired her during her stay in Japan; they are Shoko Ahagon (1901-2002) nicknamed “Okinawan Gandhi” and Keiko Ogura, a survivor of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. The seminar took place on February 18, 2018 at PIASS Huye Campus and 31 people (18 males and 13 females) attended it.

During the Second World War, Shoko Ahagon lived with farmers and after the war, he established an anti-war peace museum. Floriane used one of the quotes of Shoko Ahagon (“A country which has a [military] base will perish by the base and a country which has a nuclear weapon will perish by the nuclear weapon”) to launch a discussion and raise awareness amongst participants on nuclear weapons and military bases.

The other inspiring peace-builder is Keiko Ogura; she was a primary student when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. She mentioned other consequences of atomic bomb that some people did not know like discrimination of survivors, fear of planes, intergenerational conflicts (e.g.: story of a boy who accuses his father for having not done enough to help his mother who was left in a burning house when the atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima, yet the father’s life was also endangered). According to Keiko Ogura, “some survivors found a reason to live through the people interested in hearing the stories of Hibakusha”. [Hibakusha means a survivor of atomic bomb in Japanese language]

“It happened”, “it really happened, “that happened”, Keiko repeatedly said those quotes during her testimony. For Floriane, this statement intended to emphasize that what Keiko was saying was the truth. Because there are some people who deny the reality and the consequences of the atomic bomb dropped in Japan and she was of a belief that “those who forget the past are more likely to repeat it again”.

After the presentation of Floriane, participants shared their feelings and the lessons they learnt in the seminar. Some were astonished by the existence of nuclear weapons and their potential harm. Another reaction was about how the politics of Japan are in relation to US’s politics particularly relating to military defense. Among the responses provided by Floriane and Dr. Kazuyuki on that point, they informed the participants that there are people who always protest that the US military should move out of Japan’s territory even though the Japanese government supports the existence of American military bases because there is an agreement of self-defense between Japan and the US. Another participant stated that nuclear weapons can be subject to accidents in their transport or in other ways such as from earthquakes as it has already happened in one Japanese industry) and it can cause a disaster; this reaction was to strengthen the view that the nuclear weapons are dangerous. Additionally, Dr. Kazuyuki informed PIASS Peace Club members that there is an organization from Japan called ICAN (International Campaign for Abolishing Nuclear weapons) which got a Peace Nobel Prize in 2017 and that it has a branch in Burundi (on the African continent).

### **3.3. Research Seminar with Prof. Shinichi Takeuchi on “Transformation of Rural Societies in Rwanda’s Peace-building Process”**

On February 23, 2018, CRASPD was honored to host a seminar with Prof. Shinichi Takeuchi, the head of the African Studies Center at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) who has been involved in field research in rural areas of Rwanda for the last 20 years. People from different professional backgrounds such as lecturers, students and NGO staffs attended the seminar at PIASS; there were 25 men and 20 women from at least 7 countries (Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo/ DRC, Tanzania, South Sudan, Japan and Germany).



In his presentation, Prof. Takeuchi remarked that rural zones in Rwanda host the majority of the population and, as he emphasized it, “any authority needs to establish order and legitimacy” in a post-conflict society; therefore, it is essential to aim for sustainable peace-building efforts in rural areas of Rwanda. The main aspect that emerged in the seminar is that land conflicts often break out in post-conflict periods because land rights are connected to public order. In Rwanda, there have been various policies towards land regulation in rural areas after the 1994 Genocide. The following are some of these efforts: land sharing between Tutsi returnees and other residents, the new Family Law (1999) in which women are entitled by the law to inherit land, for example, land registration law (2005) which regulates that Rwandans receive land certificates for a better administrative control over land (and expropriation in case of failing to use the land ‘efficiently’), land marketization and the development of marshlands, etc.



The seminar was an opportunity for participants to exchange on issues related to land, its management, and implications of its control in the peace-building processes in Rwanda. It was found that the increase of agricultural yields and improvement of social conditions like health and education, establishing public order in terms of land access for all Rwandans, and reducing economic inequalities between the rich and the poor are effective strategies for sustainable peace-building in rural parts of Rwanda. An important suggestion that came up is to gather data on how land marketization is linked to other systems of social development and to what extent the gap between the rich and the poor influences land access among Rwandans. It was mentioned that there might be a need for a strategy of land protection so that the poor do not sell land due to the pressing and immediate needs caused by poverty, without gaining long terms benefits.

Information about Professor Takeuchi’s academic career and publications is available at <http://www.tufs.ac.jp/asc/english/about/staff/takeuchishinichi.html>.

### **3.4. Seminar with Samantha Lakin on “Nuanced Memory: Creating Memorial Culture after Genocide and Mass Atrocities in Rwanda”**



Samantha Lakin, M.A., a PhD Candidate of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University and Fulbright Scholar doing research on memorialization in Rwanda, presented her pivotal research in our May 6, 2018 research seminar at PIASS with more than 50 students and lecturers from PIASS and other academic institutions, as well as interested local and international participants. Her presentation was structured along seminal statements from different local and international actors on the role of

memorialization and expressive pictures from memorial sites, both national and local ones. It provided an overview of the findings from more than 60 interviews she has conducted in Rwanda with actors at different levels of the society, in different places and from different backgrounds on their experiences and views of the current policies and practices of memorialization. Processes of

memorialization, according to her findings, constitute important aspects of transitional justice in Rwanda, providing acknowledgement and symbolic redress for the violence suffered.

In order to explore how the local context and tradition influence ways communities handle the need of memorialization, Samantha discussed how communities in Northern Uganda deal with the legacy of mass atrocities and ‘extraordinary’ crimes that were committed by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). She found that in the Ugandan context and culture, the Rwandan practice of communal memorials or grave sites—that arose because of the need to bury many at a time due to the immense number of people killed—would be culturally unacceptable. Instead, in Uganda, individual burial rites in family plots are necessary to prevent the spirit of the deceased from haunting their offspring. She pointed out: “Practitioners and researchers must strive to understand symbolic justice efforts in Rwanda and Uganda through a cultural and context-specific lens. This can help ensure that justice policies created are attentive to the differing needs of each society.”

It is not only the different cultural, historic, political and socio-economic contexts in which atrocities occur and memorialization is pursued that is of significance. Also individual memories and experiences of what happened can differ from the common narrative and need to be acknowledged in order to build trust and facilitate healing. Samantha advocated for the establishment and sharing of common goals of what she calls a “recovery process” to include different local experiences and perspectives of memorialization: “The process to empower individuals to accept the mission of justice-seeking, rebuilding, and reconciliation as their own personal endeavor will lead to a more sustainable future,” she concluded.

More on Samantha Lakin and her work can be found at <http://samanthalakin.com/>.

### **3.5. Overcoming Legacies of Mass Violence Together: Information Seminar on the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) Program**

CRASPD, in collaboration with PIASS Peace Club, held an Information Seminar at PIASS, on June 24, 2018, to introduce the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) Program to 40 participants from PIASS Community and staff of partnering and interested NGOs. HROC was introduced as a program designed to build community capacity to respond to wide-spread trauma and to strengthen interconnections, reduce isolation, and better accompany families, neighbors and community members on their journeys of healing.

Serge Muvunyi and Anne Dietrich, both staff of CRASPD, participated in the HROC international Training of facilitators in 2017 for three weeks and shared their experience in the training, information about the background and history of the HROC program and the HROC Center and workshops in Musanze. They also presented the invitation for the upcoming International Facilitators Training in July 2018. Rodrigue Icishatse, a Burundian student of the Peace & Conflict Studies program, the current president of PIASS Peace Club, and who had participated in the International Facilitators’ Training in 2016, shared his experience of conducting HROC workshops in Burundi. He also introduced the work of the main organizer of HROC workshops in Burundi, namely Innovations for Peace-building Burundi (IPB) with people from different groups and asked the PIASS community to support their present fundraising campaign. This campaign aims at strengthening the program that bringing police officers together with youth in Bujumbura for HROC workshops.

More information about HROC can be found at [www.healingandrebuiltourcommunities.org](http://www.healingandrebuiltourcommunities.org).

## 4. Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) Workshops

Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) is a training program enabling participants to deal with potentially violent situations in new, positive and creative ways. In these sessions, participants shared experiences, explored one's own and others' capacities for nonviolent conflict transformation, participated in experience-based exercises and role play activities. Through these sessions participants increased their skills in the areas of affirmation (enhancing self-respect), communication (especially in conflict), cooperation (community building), and conflict resolution.

### 4.1. AVP Basic Level Workshops



Two AVP Basic Level Workshops were conducted at PIASS in January and March 2018. The AVP Basic workshop in January 2018 brought together 13 male and 8 female participants, 13 of which are students at the Faculty of Development Studies (FDS) Bachelor's program of Peace & Conflict Studies. The other 8 participants came from local and international Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs). This workshop was co-facilitated by two of the new AVP facilitators who had been trained at PIASS in 2017. In the AVP workshop in March 2018, 8 males and 8 females participated; 8 PIASS students of the FDS Bachelor's program of Peace & Conflict

Studies, the Bachelor's program of Rural & Community Development and from the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies and 8 staff from NGOs joined it. Again, two of the AVP facilitators, who were trained at PIASS in 2017, received the opportunity to be part of the facilitators' team. Both workshops were funded by the Japanese Mission Support Fund for which we are very grateful.

### 4.2. AVP Advanced Level Workshop

An Advanced Level Workshop, held on May 29 – 31, 2018 at PIASS, was conducted with 19 people, 9 females and 10 males; 16 PIASS students and the other 3 from NGOs were part of it. An experienced AVP facilitator from Kenya joined the team of facilitators. One of the new AVP facilitators, who was an intern at CRASPD at the time of the workshop, brought along additional facilitation experience from his activities at Congo Peace Network (CPN). Both facilitators got the chance to be in a team with Prof. Penine Uwimbabazi and Anne Dietrich. We found that the interest in AVP seems to have greatly increased, because the list of participants was already full three days after we sent out the invitation. This AVP Advanced Level Workshop was funded by GIZ CPS – Rwanda.



### 4.3. AVP Plans and Regional Expansion

We are planning to hold a second AVP Advanced Workshop mid-August, a refresher training mid-September for the AVP facilitators trained in 2017. Another Training of AVP Facilitators who have completed at least one AVP Advanced Level Workshop will be conducted by the end of September 2018.



Meanwhile, we learnt that CPN has already started to integrate AVP into their work through the cooperation of some of their members who were trained at PIASS, two of whom are the new AVP facilitators. They linked up with the coordination of AVP in DRC, and they held an AVP Basic Level Workshop in Goma in May 2018, with youth from this network. Although the date is not yet confirmed due to funding challenges, we are planning to send a delegation of our AVP Facilitators to participate in the African Regional Gathering of AVP scheduled to be held in Uganda on November 4 – 10, 2018.

## **5. Support for and Collaboration with PIASS Peace Club**

### **5.1 Peace Club Planning Processes**

A planning day was held in January 2018 with the new 7 PIASS Peace Club (PPC) Committee that had been elected in November 2017, and a review session was done in the end of March, including the fine-tuning of tasks and responsibilities of Committee members and agreements on Committee routines.

New developments in the PPC include the creation of a ‘media team’ who conducted different trainings on video making, performance of a theater play during the PIASS Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in which the Dean of the Faculty of Protestant Theology (former name of PIASS), his wife and four children, and four theological students had been killed. It also encompasses a video on the life of a student at PIASS and another video on the participation of PIASS students in the commemoration event organized in the reconciliation project of CRASPD with Umucyo Nyanza, a women’s association working in Nyanza. It comprises also of the facilitation of two new Peace Clubs established, one at PIASS Karongi Campus, and the other one at Buhimba Secondary School (in Huye District).

CRASPD also supported the PPC to edit and print the reports about their activities, and to negotiate with the PIASS administration for permission to capture video scenes at the PIASS compound.

### **5.2 Peace Club Activities**

#### *a. Support for Nyanza Women Association*

As in earlier years, PPC was active in supporting Umucyo Nyanza (Light of Nyanza), Women’s Association established by survivors of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi and wives of perpetrators in Nyanza in their flower gardening activities, and some members participated in the Commemoration that the women organized, as every year, to honor the victims of the genocide. (Please see Section 6 below to find more about these activities).

#### *b. Seminars in Cooperation with CRASPD*

CRASPD and PPC held a seminar on February 18, in which Floriane Niyungeko introduced two Japanese Peacebuilders whom she met and who impressed her during her trip in Japan in October – November, 2017. PPC has been the co-organizer and mobilizer for other seminars CRASPD held. (please see Section 3 to find more about the seminars).

#### *c. Trauma First Aid Trainings for PIASS Students*

As for the last year, PPC, in collaboration with CRASPD, organized the Trauma First Aid Training at PIASS for members of PPC and other students who are members of other students’ clubs. This was held ahead of the Commemoration for those killed at the Faculty of Protestant Theology during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi:

- 1) NVCT Briefing, April 17 – 18, 2018
- 2) Students’ Trauma First Aid Training, April 24 – 25, and May 8 – 9, 2018
- 3) Training for Additional Skills for 2017 group of Trauma First Aiders: May 2 – 3, 2018
- 4) Follow-Up Day: May 22, 2018



12 students participated in the NVCT briefing and Trauma First Aid Training for new participants and 12 Trauma First Aiders trained in 2017 attended the training for additional skills. The trainers were two professional trauma therapists, Mrs. Thérèse Uwitonze from MHDF and Dr. Joséphine Mukabera who is also a lecturer at PIASS. Participants from both trainings joined the follow-up day that was held shortly before the PIASS Commemoration to recapitulate useful knowledge and skills and to practice approaches and techniques that can be helpful to intervene when emotional crisis

strikes, e.g. during commemoration events, to stabilize the persons. The two groups formed teams and were prepared for their tasks that they performed during the PIASS Commemoration on May 26 – 27, 2018, under the trainers’ supervision.

### 5.3. Other Activities in collaboration with PPC

To mark the celebration of the 2018 International Women’s Day on March 8, CRASPD in collaboration with PPC organized a Cineduc session (Cinema for Education) at PIASS. Around 30 people from different backgrounds attended the event: students, PIASS Staff, NGO volunteers and staff, professors and INGOs staffs. The 2012-documentary film “Sweet Dreams” about the Rwandan women's drumming troupe “Ingoma Nshya”, which was founded in 2005 by playwright Odile "Kiki" Katese with women from both sides of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide against Tutsi. The drumming troupe's success then led to the opening of an ice cream store called “Inzozu Nziza” in Huye.



## 6. Support for Nyanza Women Association

Umucyo Nyanza (Light of Nyanza), an association of women working together in Nyanza for reconciliation and development, is comprised of 15 women from both sides of the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994 (survivors and wives of genocide perpetrators). In order to help this women’s group to transform itself from an informal association to an economically viable cooperative and enhance its reconciliation initiatives, during the first quarter of this year, CRASPD developed and submitted a 3-year proposal of “Umucyo Nyanza Women Peace & Livelihood Project” to the Japanese Mission Support Group. After obtaining project approval in April, CRASPD has entered a new phase with the following planned activities in the next 3 years:

- Institutional development support towards the establishment of a cooperative
- Training in cooperative management and marketing their products
- Continuous support for flower production
- Book cover making and other handcraft activities
- Tailoring training
- Training in cooperative management
- Peace-building trainings for the children of women



CRASPD will continue to involve PIASS students in a range of activities such as trainings, workshops, field activities for and with the women of Umucyo Nyanza and their children.



### **6.1 Follow-up of Flower Production Activities**

Since October 2015, this group has been producing and selling flowers as their income generating activity. These flowers have been also used during the genocide commemoration events that were organized by this association in collaboration with CRASPD and PIASS Peace Club. Still this flower production activity is facing some challenges such as, long dry seasons, marketing issues and the land ownership (the piece of land they are using is not

theirs and at any time the owner can terminate the contract). Assistant Coordinator of CRASPD continued a follow-up of the flower production activities during this reporting period.

### **6.2 Workshop with Youth in Nyanza**

Following the suggestion of the women members of Umucyo Nyanza to have their children being trained in peace-building and conflict transformation, CRASPD organized workshops for those young people in order to introduce them to different concepts with regards to peace-building subjects. The first workshop was conducted in August 2017 in Nyanza, when these young people were on school holidays (as many of them are still students).

From the recommendations of the first workshop, it was suggested to have at least one training during school holidays. To meet that expectation, CRASPD organized a second peace-building workshop for that group on January 8 – 10, 2018, in which 10 young people and 4 PIASS students participated and was facilitated by the CRASPD team together with one PIASS Peace Club member. The workshop was held at Nyanza Peace Academy.



This was a three-day workshop, which had the objective of facilitating dialogue between the young people so that they could dissolve mutual stereotypes and build the basis for peaceful coexistence in their community. To achieve this main objective within this workshop, participants covered topics of friendship (how to be a good friend, how they can make friends and what qualities of a good friend are), entrepreneurship (how they can become entrepreneurs, skills for successful entrepreneurs), and exchange of skills among the youth.

On the first day, participants explored the topic on friendship, where they discussed what a friend is, why they need friends in their lives, and what could be the characteristics of a good friend. They also did several exercises that helped them to understand the subject matter and they exchanged their own experiences about how to be and make good friends. There also was a talent show, where participants showed different talents they have and chose which one they want to learn on the third day of the workshop. After showing their talents, participants selected two talents (decoration and craft making), and then they appointed leaders to teach others.

On the second day, participants had a session on entrepreneurship and it was facilitated by an external entrepreneur who was invited to introduce to the participants what entrepreneurship is and how they can become entrepreneurs. The main purpose of this session was to awaken the minds of the youth about how they can benefit from different opportunities that are surrounding them in order to start a business. The invited entrepreneur told the participants that starting a business does not require a huge amount of money. Rather, it requires clear ideas of what one wants to do and a strong commitment of how you want to do it.

The last day of the workshop was the day of skills' exchange among youth. Two groups were made (a decoration group and a knitting group), and the purpose was to see which kind of skills they have and what kind of support in terms of capacity building they may need in order to improve what they are doing. The session of the skills exchange took two hours. After each group was done, all participants visited each group's exhibition to see what they did and asked questions for clarification. By the end of the workshop, the participants recommended to have additional skills in theatre performance, doing field visits and visiting each other in order to strengthen their friendship.

### **6.3 Genocide Commemoration Event**

Since 2016, the Umucyo Nyanza has been organizing genocide commemoration events as a group. This association organizes the genocide commemoration day in order to pay tribute to the victims of 1994 genocide against Tutsi, especially for the relatives of some of the group members. On this year's commemoration day, women together with students from PIASS visited the Nyanza Genocide Memorial site and laid flowers on the graves; they then gathered somewhere to share with the students their experience about their journey towards reconciliation and development.



The objectives of this commemoration day were the following: 1) to pay tribute to the victims of 1994 genocide against Tutsi especially to families, friends and neighbors of some of the women of Umucyo Nyanza; 2) to have those women get the opportunity of being accompanied in the process of healing and reconciliation; 3) to have time for students to hear experiences of those women and learn how reconciliation is taking place at the grassroots' level.

This commemoration event is unique in that it is being organized by the women themselves who invited members of the PIASS Peace Club. The event is being organized within the 100 days of genocide commemoration but on a day that is different from the official genocide commemoration day in Nyanza District. This year, the commemoration event of the group was held in Nyanza on May 1 and 63 people (including the women, PIASS students, the team of CRASPD and a professional psychotherapist) participated.

During this year's commemoration, it was observed that women did not have emotional crises compared to the last year's commemoration. Women have confirmed that having this commemoration as a group, bringing flowers from their garden and having students on their side during this event have been essential elements helping them to improve their relationship as group members of Umucyo Nyanza and it increases their emotional resilience.



#### 6.4 Tailoring Activities

Using the fund from the Japanese Mission Support Group, on June 20, 2018, Umucyo Nyanza Association got seven sewing machines were donated to Umucyo Nyanza to produce different items made in Kitenge fabric. In addition to those machines, this group rented a house which they will use as a workshop. This tailoring activity will help



these women to get new skills in sewing and it will support them to increase their income. As most of those women do not have skills in using sewing machines, it was essential to find a teacher who teaches them basic skills in sewing. In this regard, the group has identified one of their members who is a professional tailor and she will teach them for two months; it can be extended if it is necessary. Since there are 7 machines and 14 women, they divided themselves into 2 groups which will alternate in using the machines so that all of them can learn.



#### 6.5 Book covers' and accessories' making

Starting from last year (2017), members of Umucyo Nyanza were involved in making book covers made in Kitenge fabric. In this activity, they are being trained by Megumi Sasaki (the wife of Dr. Sasaki Kazuyuki) with the assistance of Japanese and some Rwandan students who study at PIASS. These book covers are made by the members of Umucyo Nyanza and so far being sold in Japan once Megumi and Dr. Kazuyuki go to Japan; the income from these products is given to the group. This year (2018), the activity is still ongoing, and they added other items, such as accessories from the flowers they are growing. These flower accessories are earrings and hairpins. Since the time they started making these products (book covers and flower accessories), their skills in craft making improved and they now make products with good quality that can be sold for a higher amount of money.



The income from all of those activities has contributed to the wellbeing of the members of Umucyo Nyanza. As a matter of fact, they could pay health insurances for their families from the income they earned in June this year. There is also hope that they will be getting more income in the future, so that they can be able to solve different family issues such as paying school fees for their children.

The continuing challenge they face concerns the local market. By now, their products are being sold only in Japan, and this cannot be a sustainable option for market as long as they do not find somebody who can take their products outside Rwanda. To mitigate this problem, CRASPD is encouraging and supporting this group in promoting and marketing their products on the local market. They also need to register as a cooperative. For these reasons, support for institutional development and training in management are planned to be implemented later this year.

## **6.6 EMPOWER Training – Follow-up Day**

Members of Umucyo Nyanza had one day as the follow-up of a 7-day EMPOWER training held in March last year. This training is one of the approaches that is being used by a local NGO called Christian Action for Reconciliation and Social Assistance (CARSA) in order to help victims of violent conflicts to help participants of this training restore their resilience and dealing with past traumatic events in more sustainable way. This training has objectives of:

1. Stabilise, manage and ameliorate current trauma symptoms
2. De-conditioning of 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.

This follow-up day was organized by CRASPD in collaboration with CARSA, and Compiled by Love (CBL) an Australian organization that works on trauma healing. Since 2016, CRASPD has been organizing trauma healing workshops for members of Umucyo Nyanza some days before the genocide commemoration period. The purpose is to help this group to enter this period with strong emotions and a sense of mutual support.

This year, the follow-up day was held in Nyanza at Nyanza Peace Academy on March 2, with the purpose to evaluate the impact of the EMPOWER workshop in the lives of the women through their success stories, to refresh their memory on what they learnt last year and to encourage one another in the process of healing and reconciliation. 14 women and 3 students from PIASS who participated in the EMPOWER training last year attended it.

Participants shared their testimonies about how the EMPOWER workshop helped them to make a step forward in the process of healing, reconciliation and forgiveness. The process was done within small groups, and each group had 2 facilitators who were there to facilitate a circle process. By hearing women's testimonies, there are positive changes that occurred in their lives and there were challenges, too. The trainer asked the participants to continue working hard towards healing and reconciliation by supporting each other as a group, to continue reading the training manual they were given after the training and to remind each other about different life lessons from that handout.

## **7. Speaking Peace – Nonviolent Communication Trainings and Seminars**

### **7.1. Nonviolent Communication ® (NVC) Africa Retreat**

While all the other activities under the project supported by GIZ Civil Peace Service were fully implemented by PIASS and information about them can be found in the other sections of this report, the Nonviolent Communication Africa Retreat 2018 was implemented as a direct procurement of GIZ CPS in collaboration with PIASS. CRASPD, with support of one of the most experienced trainers for NVC ([www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org)) in Africa, Dunia Hategekimana from Rwanda, held the retreat on May 14 – 18, 2018, in Gisenyi/Rubavu District. This event was an opportunity for African practitioners to meet and exchange with others who had been integrating the process of Nonviolent Communication in their lives, work, work place and community/organization. 23 NVC practitioners, 7 of them females, coming from 12 countries (Cameroon, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, DR Congo, Burundi, Rwanda) participated in the retreat.

In different sessions, presentations and practice workshops, participants shared their experiences of applying NVCs in their different contexts and professional environments and used various approaches to hone their skills in listening empathically and expressing themselves with a focus on needs, to deal with challenging situations. Some of the major topics were:



- Dealing with anger through NVC
- Power and authority in Nonviolent Communication
- The role that NVC can play in reducing poverty in Africa
- Empathic communication in family conflicts
- Sharing NVC in communities, especially in settings of large scale violence.

In an online session with experienced trainers from Canada and Germany, participants had the chance to ask many questions, and a lively discussion ensued. Given that the retreat took place during the Rwandan Commemoration Period of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, a film screening and a visit to a Genocide Memorial site were organized for participants to learn about this violent phase of the Rwandan history and how Rwandans are memorializing it. On the last day of the retreat, participants shared their vision of “Nonviolent Communication Africa” and drafted a list of commitments for taking NVC further on the continent, as well as requests and offers for mutual support.

### **7.2. NVC Practice Group**

A group of 10 participants from the 2017 Workshop on Professional Nonviolent Communication, “Speaking Peace at Work”, and different other introductions to NVC that Anne Dietrich had conducted in 2016 and 2017 came together at PIASS on Monday, June 24, for an afternoon to exchange experiences applying NVC in their life and work and to explore theory and practice together. They worked on translating things that we think we have no choice but doing even if we dislike doing it, (“have to”) into “choose to”, raising awareness about our hopes and needs that we are fulfilling by doing those things, although we do not like them. A next practice meeting was agreed for July, in which they will focus on how they can say “NO” in a clear and nonviolent way when they choose not to do something they have been asked to do by another person.

### **7.3. NVC Planning, Further Training and Expansion**

In the follow-up of the lecture by Prof. Penine Uwimbabazi on NVC and having it as a focus topic in one of our AVP Advanced Level Workshops, two of the students in the Peace & Conflict Studies program introduced NVC to others: One student from DRC did NVC introductory sessions for youth in Congo Peace Network, and a Rwandan student introduced NVC to beneficiaries and to the staff of the organization where she did her internship.

Floriane Niyungeko participated in “Developing the Consciousness of Peace and Reconciliation. A Lab on Nonviolent Communication & Restorative Circles” on June 8 – 12, 2018, in Oldenburg, Germany. The 5-day seminar was organized by the Hamburger Institut für Gewaltfreie Kommunikation (Hamburg Institute for Nonviolent Communication). There were around 35 participants who came from different countries most of them from Europe, and a few from America and Africa. The trainer, Duke Duchscherer (a certified NVC trainer), was open to do some trainings and seminars in Rwanda basing on PIASS/CRASPD interest in doing restorative circles.

A second “Speaking Peace at Work” Seminar of 4 days is planned for mid-October, inviting lecturers and interested pastors.



Anne Dietrich will attend the NVC International Intensive Training end of August in Austria, with some trainers who have been certified by the International Center for Nonviolent Communication and are from or are working in Africa.

## 8. Critical Thinking Trainings and Seminars

The activities on Critical Thinking are a series of activities around the topic of Critical Thinking. It aims at strengthening critical thinking skills of PIASS students, through the practice and fostering of critical thinking skills, a training on how to facilitate discussions that can foster critical thinking, a seminar on how to integrate critical thinking in teaching methodologies and discussions facilitated by students trained as facilitators.

### 8.1. Critical Thinking Training Mini Workshop for CRASPD Staff

The mini-workshop was aiming at introducing the critical thinking approach as developed by the partners of the GIZ CPS-Rwanda. It took place on the afternoon of May 21; all the CRASPD team was present, plus a Japanese researcher interested in critical thinking joined the team on that day. The workshop consisted mainly of 1) an example of fostering critical thinking using a discussion on a quote, 2) explanation to the CRASPD Team on the activities planned in the series of activities around critical thinking, 3) sharing important tasks for those activities and 4) orienting the activities to the objectives that CRASPD wants to achieve with them.

### 8.2. Critical Thinking Trainings for PIASS Students

Two 4-day trainings of students took place on June 5 – 6 & 19 – 20 and June 28 – 29 & July 5 – 6 at PIASS. Each training had 20 participants (12 males and 8 females attended the first training; 10 males and 10 females attended the second one); the registration of male and female students in the trainings was almost equal. The participants in these trainings were students from all the three faculties of PIASS (the Faculty of Development Studies, the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies). The series of activities were opened by the Chaplain and Dean of Students, Canon Etienne where he officially gave opening remarks on the first day of the first critical thinking training for students.



The two trainings were co-facilitated with two Never Again Rwanda staff who are trainers in critical thinking; the first one with Theoneste Ndungutse and the second one with Anna Mueller-Holtz.

In the trainings, participants explored topics like obedience, self-responsibility, moral development, inclusion and exclusion, stereotypes, gender clichés, the link between critical thinking and peace-building and relevance, challenges and limitations of critical thinking. In both trainings, participants were given evaluation forms that they filled to give feedback on what they learnt and what could be improved in future trainings. There will be evaluation forms that will be sent to the participants again after 6 months to assess the impact of the trainings on the life of the participants and their experiences of using critical thinking in their everyday life.

### **8.3. Planning / Next Steps**

There is a number of activities in the series of activities on critical thinking that are not part of this report because they take place in the period that is not concerned by this report. Those activities are:

- The training of facilitators planned for July 25 – 26 and August 1 – 2. This training brings together students who were part of the two first critical thinking trainings and who are willing to become facilitators of discussions that foster critical thinking.
- The seminar on critical thinking with PIASS lecturers and practitioners planned for October 4, 2018 at PIASS.
- Discussions fostering critical thinking that will be organized by the students trained as facilitators. For the moment, PIASS Peace Club is interested in having a discussion in November (the date is yet to be confirmed), when PIASS students start a new academic year.

## **9. Miscellaneous CRASPD Activities**

### **9.1. CRASPD Profile and Visibility**

In October 2017, CRASPD conducted a competition among PIASS students to design a logo for the Center in cooperation with PIASS Peace Club. Six teams submitted their entries, and in two sessions of the Faculty of Development, the winning team was selected. A small award ceremony took place on February 6, 2018 to thank the six students' teams for their commitment and creativity. A Japanese professional designer volunteered to produce the final logo.

To improve our visibility and to promote our consultancy services, CRASPD office, in collaboration with lecturers in the FDS, developed a service profile displaying the services we offer and an outline of trainings we can conduct and refurbished our flyer with the newly-designed logo. All those documents are being integrated into the CRASPD website ([www.craspd.com](http://www.craspd.com)) bit by bit, as much as internet connection and time allow.

CRASPD presented itself with a show-board at three PIASS events: the opening of the new PIASS International Masters' Program on Educational Quality Center for Didactics and Research in Education (CEDRE) on February 28, the opening of the new PIASS Multimedia Center on March 28, and the visit of the Minister of Education on April 18, 2018.

### **9.2. Internships and CRASPD Library Branch Office**

One of the academic requirements for PIASS students to graduate is a 3-month internship where they learn how to apply what they were taught in class in the practical setting of hosting organizations or institutions and can gain an idea on how professional life can look like. In this Academic Year, CRASPD welcomed two interns who were involved in activities between April 16 and June 8, 2018; they are students in the Department Peace & Conflict Studies in their third year: David Nyiringabo from DRC and Shukulu Murekatete from Rwanda. While Shukulu focused on working on the Umucyo Nyanza Women's Peace and Livelihood Project with Serge Muvunyi, about which she will also write her dissertation, David worked on the implementation and monitoring of the activities in the GIZ CPS project of CRASPD/PIASS. We greatly benefitted from the contribution of both interns, and they, too, testified that they had been learning useful things and were satisfied with their internships. Both former interns continue supporting CRASPD as volunteers in occasional activities. Since the space at the CRASPD office in the Chapel building became too small after the two interns joined us and lecturers and other visitors come to the office regularly, the team decided to establish a branch office in the neighboring library building where Anne Dietrich and Floriane Niyungeko are now having their work places.

## **10. Outlook**

In the next semester, CRASPD is planning to conduct a Community Needs Survey to explore the training and consultancy needs of adjacent communities and to fine-tune plans to establish a training center for nonviolent community development. Another focus will be on extending consultancy offers in the field of constructive professional communication and conflict sensitive development programming. CRASPD will also continue to regularly conduct seminars for the PIASS community as well as staff of partner organizations and interested public.

The desire of members of other departments and faculties to be more involved in CRASPD activities is taken into consideration by inviting students from all faculties to the Critical Thinking Trainings and lecturers from all faculties to the Speaking Peace at Work Seminar in October. The workshop on conflict sensitive programming in September will be open to the entire PIASS community, as well as PIASS partner organizations and institutions.