

Spaces for Change:

**Working for a diverse
and peaceful Rwanda**



About Never Again Rwanda



Never Again Rwanda, is peace building and social justice organisation that arose in response to the 1994 genocide perpetrated against the Tutsis. Guided by a vision of a nation where citizens are agents of positive change, working together towards sustainable peace and development. Never Again Rwanda's mission is to enhance citizens' capacity to analyse the root causes of conflict and facilitate dialogue among peers in order to generate ideas and activities that work towards sustainable peace and socio-economic development.

Driven by creative, involved and critical-thinking citizens, Never Again Rwanda aims to empower young people and ordinary citizens with opportunities to become active and engaged citizens.

Never Again Rwanda
58 KG 9 Avenue Kigali
Nyaruturama, Kigali-Rwanda
+250 788 386 688
info@neveragainrwanda.org
www.neveragainrwanda.org



Never Again Rwanda



@NARwanda



Never Again Rwanda



2016 has been an exceptional year....



We once again, have the pleasure of sharing the Never Again Rwanda's (NAR) annual report of 2016.

It has been 15 years since Never Again Rwanda's inception. NAR's mantle as a 'peace building and social justice organization' that arose in response to the 1994 genocide perpetrated against Tutsis; 'where citizens are agents of positive change and work together towards sustainable peace and development' remains indispensable and more relevant today than at any time in Rwanda's history.

Throughout 2016, NAR continued its work with local communities in the creation of 'Healing Spaces for Peace' and 'Citizen Forums' enabling ordinary people to be more aware of their roles in participatory local decision making processes at local and national government.

2016 has been an exceptional year working with local communities and raising public awareness of NAR's approaches and achievements. This was demonstrated with the launch of NAR's research paper in August, 2016 'Governing with and for citizens: Lessons from a post-Genocide Rwanda'.

In September, NAR also celebrated and raised awareness of the International Day of Peace.

In November, NAR hosted the 'Societal Healing conference and Participatory Governance' to exchange experiences on healing, social cohesion and reconciliation in post-genocide and extreme violent societies.

In December, NAR held the National Conference on Human Rights, under the theme of "Stand up for someone's rights today: The Role of Rwandan youth in promoting a sustainable culture of Human rights" and brought together youth and other key stakeholders.

The accomplishments detailed in this annual report have been achieved through the mutual support and partnership with the Embassy of Sweden in Rwanda, The German Development agency (GIZ), the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), and The Global fund for Children (GFC) , the Government of Rwanda and we are grateful to the special support of Interpeace which has led to the growth of Never Again Rwanda.

NAR has also worked in collaboration with the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC), the National Commission for the Fights against Genocide (CNGL), local and national citizens and decision-making bodies, local academia and international scholars and practitioners.

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support for our work to empower citizens in becoming active members towards sustainable peace and development.

We thank our dedicated Board members and NAR staff for their commitment and personal sacrifice that have enabled Never Again Rwanda to travel thus far. With gratitude,

Dr Joseph Nkurunziza, Country Director of Never Again Rwanda

[@ryarasa](#)



In this report

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04 | Spaces of Change |
| 05 | Peacebuilding |
| 10 | Never Again Youth Clubs |
| 14 | Critical Thinking |
| 17 | International Day of Peace |
| 19 | Cross Border Discussions |
| 21 | Governance and Rights |
| 22 | The Commemoration Conference |
| 29 | Launch of research paper: 'Governing with and for citizens |
| 31 | International Conference of Healing and Social Cohesion |
| 33 | Participation and Collaboration |
| 34 | Mapping |
| 36 | Achievements in Figures |
| 40 | Planning for the future |
| 41 | 2016 Financial statement |



What are 'spaces of change'?

How one man shared his touching story with Never Again Rwanda, and further illustrated how 'Spaces of Change' can work towards a diverse and peaceful Rwanda

A young man from the NAR Abasangirangendo Association, who had survived the genocide and found himself falling in love with a Hutu woman shared his story with Never Again Rwanda, which produced a video on the young couple's situation and the unfolding events of their partnership and eventual marriage.

He spoke of the challenges he faced in marrying his fiancé. How her family did

not support the marriage; and how not only were the members of the community completely against their planned union but as a receiver of services accessed as a Genocide survivor, he could have also risked losing his house and family, should he marry the woman he loved.

As a member of the NAR Abasangirangendo dialogue space, the young man found a 'space' to speak about significant personal issues.

Peacebuilding: Aiming to contribute to a peaceful and inclusive Rwandan society



Rwandan society is still marked by the wounds left by the 1994 Genocide, structural violence, war, discrimination and inequality. Reconciliation is not possible without building the capacity of society to address the legacy of the past and rebuild the social fabric.

In response and since 2015, Never Again Rwanda in collaboration with Interpeace has been implementing the **Societal Healing and Participatory Governance for Sustainable Peace in Rwanda programme**. Between January and December 2016, 2,091 Rwandans were engaged in the programme, 45.1% of them were women.

The programme aims to contribute to a peaceful and inclusive Rwandan society where citizens are enabled to overcome the wounds of the past, to peacefully manage conflicts and diversity, and empowered to influence programmes and policies that are responsive to citizen priorities.

During 2016, the programme continued the process of participatory action research on participatory governance, which started in 2015. The main goal of this research is to examine the perceptions of Rwandans on citizens' participation in governance, provide citizens with a forum to openly analyse key issues regarding citizens' participation and explore avenues for improvement.

To validate the research findings, NAR and InterPeace organized a National Stakeholder's meeting in Kigali on 24th August, 2016. The meeting brought together 146 people, including the high level officials from central and local government, donors, staff from different embassies, national and international organizations, members of parliament, CSOs, the Media, as well as citizens from different districts. The participants validated the research findings and recommendations, selected and prioritized new topics for further research.

The Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) highly appreciated the findings and demonstrated interest to cooperate with NAR in the research processes and committed to meet the leadership of each district and discuss how the recommendations should be synchronized at all levels; and to set strategies to increase citizens participation in planning, budgeting, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs.

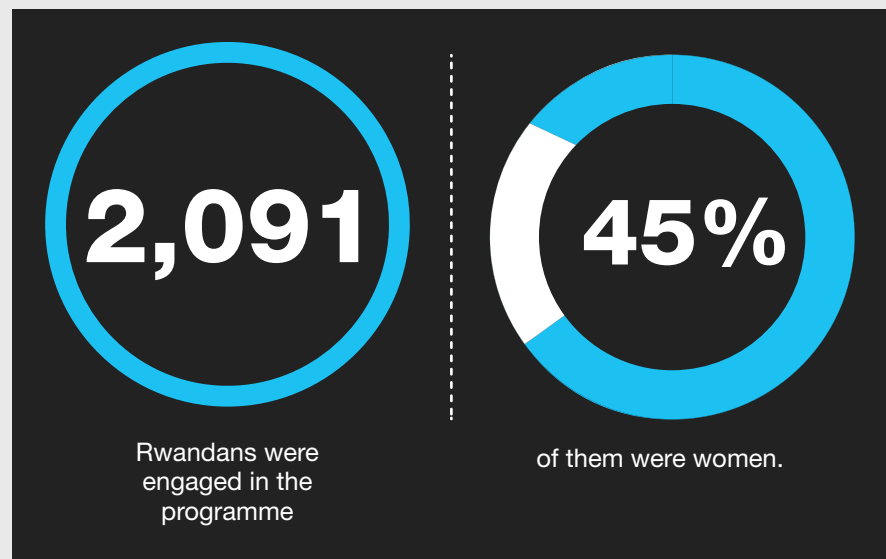
The program also hosted the 5th National Conference on commemoration policy and practices in April, 2016 on the "Commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis: A journey to healing and reconciliation". This attracted 171 people (102 male; 69 female) of whom 73% were youth. NAR also hosted the regional (January) and summer peace-building institute in June 2016 attended by 34 participants, 14 of them women.

On August 12, 2016, NAR joined the world in celebrating the international day of youth on

the theme of "the Role of Youth in poverty alleviation and achieving sustainability". The event brought together 72 youth from respective clubs/associations and media, of which 29 were women participants.

NAR in partnership with the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NUR) celebrated an International day of peace through youth parliamentary exchange which brought together 258 youth from around the country, 71 decisions makers and CSO representatives and, 25 media on the theme "Building blocks for peace: The role of youth in Promoting peace and sustainable development".

Furthermore, NAR and Interpeace hosted the international conference on Healing and Social Cohesion in November, 2016 to exchange experiences on healing, social cohesion and reconciliation in post-genocide and extreme violence societies. The 2 day conference brought together 140 participants from USA, Canada, Belgium, South Africa, Kenya, Somalia, Central Africa Republic, France and Rwanda.



“
recognising
there is a wound
is the first
step towards
resolving the
issue.”

Jenny Olsson, the Ambassador of Sweden to Rwanda said in her opening remarks at the Societal Healing and Participatory Governance conference (November, 2016).



Spaces for Peace - 'Why healing is important in Rwanda'

While there has been great progress made in recovering from the devastating 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis, Never Again Rwanda's (NAR) participatory action research found that country is still in need of societal healing initiatives to help citizens deal with a painful past and to build for a sustainable peaceful

Some community members have demonstrated increased openness and emotional expression alongside improved listening skills

Group dialogue

This was found to be a commonly used and appropriate technique for Rwanda's post genocide context. With effective facilitation of these groups conducted in spaces where local citizens feel safe to discuss their problems, a transformative healing process starts to take shape.

Dialogue groups were found to help address challenges to peace, by building understanding between people of diverse backgrounds and fostering the development of healthy relationships amongst survivors and former perpetrators of genocide.

Community members have demonstrated a willingness to be open and to discuss sensitive issues and share their personal stories

At the beginning, the level of openness among spaces for peace was very low, but in this reporting year, an increased openness to share personal stories and family wounds was observed across spaces for peace. Some community members have demonstrated increased openness and emotional expression alongside improved listening skills, of the stories of others. A key element in making these dialogue groups successful was the use of a trained facilitator, with strong analytical and leadership skills.

I used to live in isolation....



"I used to live in isolation. I would stay at home for days without talking to anyone because for me any sounds were noise to my ears. I was surprised to be part of this group; I couldn't imagine how I can sit together with Tutsi survivors when I have some family members jailed for committing genocide. Initially, I thought everyone in the space including the peace agent were Tutsi survivors. But after three dialogue meetings, a woman survivor comforted me and advised me to feel free. Since then, I felt more open and relieved because of how the group welcomed me and how the peace agent treated us equally. I am happy because I feel part of the group",

"I have an uncle who committed Genocide and was sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment by the Gacaca courts. When the presidential pardon was given from which several genocide perpetrators were set free. We approached him and we asked him to confess his crimes and he said "This is not a pardon; they want to kill all of us". More recently, I visited him and told him about the space for peace. He was very surprised and asked me if I could really talk to Tutsis. When I watched the documentary film screened in our space, I was inspired by the man who said that "whatever sin someone commits there is something that never dies within him/her there is a light that never fades." This gave me hope that one day he will change",

Belonging

"As a young married woman during the 1994 genocide, my husband became a perpetrator who got involved in killings. At the beginning of genocide he locked me in a dark room and would leave me to go and kill. But he shared stories about people he had killed whenever he returned home. The life of living in a dark room and his stories on killings traumatized me because I knew he would kill me at some point. Through his stories about his killings, I learned that some of my relatives and friends were among the people he killed. This scarred me for life because I couldn't share those stories with anybody because I was locked up. He was arrested and jailed after the genocide. My life was never the same after the genocide because of the traumatic memories and lack of space to share these memories. Being a member of space for peace has empowered me to open up and share my personal story since I find this space a family."



**A Female
Survivor
Turuhurane,
Muhanga.**



**A Woman
Humura,
Gasabo.**



**A Young
Mother in
Twisungane,
Gisagara**

Humanity



"When I committed to asking for forgiveness I didn't know that I would feel human again considering what I did to Rwandans 22 years ago. I took time to reflect on my past and I have realized that there's hope that I will heal from my wounds". A male participant, space for peace Karongi.

Overcoming stereotypes



"As someone who belongs to a historically marginalized group, ethnicity makes us uncomfortable. When I go to a bar no one is willing to share anything with me; they say they can't share nor socialize with a Twa, this discrimination deeply affects me since we are also human beings. I believe through this space we will be able to address some of the challenges we face and fight against negative stereotypes' and ideology", a male participant, Abanyamahoro, Nyabihu.

Empathy



"I have started viewing ex-perpetrators and their families as human beings, before I could not shake hands with perpetrators, but through my participation in the space for peace I realized that despite the crimes they committed they are human beings", a male participant, Humura, Nduba. NAR envisages seeing more participants openly sharing their personal stories in year three of the programme At the Societal Healing conference (November 2016), Professor Theresa Seibert stated in her presentation that "healing is a process which is not counted in years, but rather in decades or even generations".

Hope



"I killed people during the 1994 genocide perpetrated against the Tutsis, though I served my time in prison I still feel ashamed of what I did, everywhere I go, people say look at those people. Through this group I hope to gain a sense of belonging and feel accepted. At the moment I'm grateful for this space since I have gained the courage to speak the truth, I had never told anyone how I feel and it has been a heavy burden to me", a male participant, Twubakane, Rukumberi.

"I took the time to reflect on my past, and I have realized that there's hope that I will heal from my wounds," said a male, former genocide perpetrator from Karongi.

"I came to realize that when people are not united, they lack respect for each other and this is one of the sources of conflict and a hindrance towards development," a female genocide survivor, Abasangirangendo, Gishamvu.

Fostering healing through discussion groups



After class on a Monday afternoon, rather than rushing away from school, a group of students bustled into the conference room at Lycée de Kigali. Dressed in white and khaki shirts and pants, 17 girls and boys, members of their school's Never Again Rwanda (NAR) club were eager to start their monthly youth peace discussion.

Dozens of students in the districts of Gasabo and Huye are now conducting monthly youth peace discussions as part of a pilot program for NAR's Societal Healing programme.

The program aims to promote profound healing and reconciliation among Rwandans, with a particular emphasis on youth. The youth dialogue spaces are intended as places where young people can peacefully manage diversity and solve conflicts, to develop critical thinking and to promote healing, transformation and collaboration.

The theme of the dialogue for the Lycée de

Kigali club was: "How can we peacefully impact our society?" The discussion centred on how young people in schools could peacefully cohabitate despite their differences. According to some students, peaceful cohabitation occurs when every community member is able to exchange his or her thoughts and views freely with his neighbour. They referred to this process as social cohesion, something that takes time, and is developed in spaces like their very own NAR club.

One club member noted that reconciliation is also an important aspect of peaceful cohabitation: "The time you spend with someone is very important in the reconciliation process; this enables you to build trust and a stronger relationship."

Other students highlighted some societal issues that they felt require more attention from their community at large, and recommended that such issues be identified and actively addressed. "We should not only

educate youth about peacebuilding but our parents and community members as well," one participant said. The discussions went on with students suggesting that they could use the youth peace dialogue as a place to talk about issues that they do not feel comfortable bringing up in their families. "This is a nice platform which should be used as a place to discuss sensitive issues that are sometimes considered taboo in our families," a student said, adding that they could use the space to come up with strategies for dealing with peacebuilding issues in families, such as how to deal with violence in the home, or mental health issues that exist in some families.

We look forward to watching this youth dialogue club grow as we support them to develop their own solutions to the challenges to peace that they face, whether it's in their own homes, at their school or in their community at large.



Never Again Youth Clubs



Never Again Rwanda first formed NAR youth clubs in 2004 with secondary school students who attended an essay writing competition organized by NAR. Fourteen years later, NAR now has 69 youth clubs and associations in Kigali, southern, Eastern, Northern and western provinces of Rwanda. These are located in over 12 districts across the country and host a variety of different activities.

These youth organise different peace building activities in their respective environments including debates and public speaking competitions, commemoration activities, charity activities, open school talks/discussions, theatre, traditional dance and handcrafts.

NAR has clubs and associations in Kigali, southern, eastern, northern and western Provinces of Rwanda. Kigali has a total of 18 clubs and associations in different locations including Kimironko, Nyarugunga, Kiyovu, Kanombe and Gisozi. These groups includes 6 schooling and 12 non-schooling and have different activities such as debates, participatory theater, raising awareness of different causes and prevention of Genocide and other peace building activities.

In the Southern region, NAR has 21 clubs and associations. These are located in Huye, Ruhango, Nyamagabe and Nyanza with activities such as group discussions, debates and other peace building activities. In the Eastern region, there are 5 clubs and associations located in Bugesera, Ngoma and Nyagatare with commemoration/peace building activities, group discussions, debates, workshops.

The Western region is home to 24 clubs and associations, located in Karongi, Rutsiro, Rubavu, Ngororero and Nyabihu. Schooling clubs have activities such as commemoration activities, charitable activities to Genocide survivors and group discussions whilst the non-schooling clubs and associations work solely on commemoration and community service activities in their respective communities.

And in the Northern Province, we have one non-schooling club and its core activities focus on commemoration activities at the district level and different youth discussions on various topics.

18

Kigali has in total, clubs and associations in different locations including Kimironko, Nyarugunga, Kiyovu, Kanombe and Gisozi.

21

Number of clubs and associations NAR has in the Southern region,

24

Number of clubs and associations in western region.

PBI 2016



The Peacebuilding Institute



The programme also hosted the Peacebuilding Institute (PBI) in January and June, 2016, which attracted 34 youth from the USA, Europe and the Great Lakes region to learn about genocide history and prevention, restorative justice, and good governance on the theme of “what Rwanda can teach the world”.

The bi-annual two-week Peace-Building Institute (PBI), focused on training Rwandan and international university students and young professionals on peace-building in post-conflict societies.

The PBI participants participated in different field visits, including to the Kigali Genocide Memorial site, the National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide (CNLG), the Murambi Memorial site, the King’s Palace, the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) and the Presidential Palace Museum and the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB). Based on Rwanda’s history and joint discussions, participants have gained deeper insights into the dynamics of conflict and reconciliation which they carried to their respective countries and engagements:

“It’s time for people to learn to appreciate each other, when people reach a point where they no longer value each other’s lives they become prone to conflict which escalates into genocide”, Victor Uhuru from Kenya.



Students focus on learning about the Genocide against the Tutsis and other details of 1994



"It's not a question of origin, it's not a question of race, and it's not a question of ethnicity. But it's a question of unity, of gathering, of putting hand by hand, standing up and struggle for peace", LaFontaine Kalisa from DRC.

The PBI discussions were promoted through social media and local newspapers. Also, the participants agreed to create a network of PBI alumni which will enable them to continue to sharing knowledge, experience and concrete initiatives. The PBI training undertaken in the summer 2016, was conducted under the theme, "What Rwanda can teach the world?" The youth are called on to understand the issue of fighting genocide by raising awareness about its reality as a human rights issue worldwide. NAR believes that participants will be able to bridge the gap between them and institutions, and fill a critical gap of unmet needs.

At the opening, Florence Batoni, NAR's peace-building coordinator commented that the training covers genocide history, prevention, causes, consequences and stages of genocide in the international perspectives with case studies of where ethnic killings occurred. "We also look at prevention mechanisms in particular with the Genocide against the Tutsi, and the recovery process. We draw students from outside Rwanda so that they can understand our history, how genocide occurred and to see the reality of the genocide in Rwanda. This is because most people outside of Rwanda do not clearly understand the reality of the Genocide," Batoni said.

Students need to be able to monitor genocidal tendencies and languages and be empowered in conflicts analysis and resolution. It is also a platform for Rwandan youth to create connections with students from abroad so that they can build a network of global leaders with empowered skills in conflict analysis and prevention.

Batoni added that within the transitional justice course, they bring different mechanisms that were applied by some countries in conflicts resolution, and show participants how Rwanda applied Gacaca, and how the reconciliation between perpetrators and survivors became possible.



Young people discussing sensitive topics and sharing personal stories



In 2016, groups of young people were brought together by Never Again Rwanda to discuss societal wounds, the roles of youth in fighting against genocide ideology, the prevention of genocide and violence, the role of youth in commemoration activities, the stereotypes and discriminatory language (naming, labelling and violent communications), the prevention of gender based violence, among others.

Through their participation in peace dialogues, it came to be recognised that young people have started to gain an in-depth understanding of different wounds in their communities and have started sharing their own personal and traumatic experiences.

"As a daughter of a genocide perpetrator who was jailed, I was raised by a single mother who had little capacity to pay for my secondary school. While attending my lower secondary school, I saw so many genocide survivors benefiting from school fees and scholastics materials from the Fund for Genocide Survivors (FARG) and, I was angry because I did not benefit from the same fund. After joining Abasangirangendo youth peace dialogue and through sharing societal wounds, I realized that youth genocide survivors are deeply wounded because they had lost their parents and relatives. An understanding of their situation, changed my negative perception towards genocide youth survivors and started sympathize with them", the peace agent, Abasangirangendo.

Another young women from a newly established young persons' group in Musanze composed by youth orphans from Genocide, shared her story:

"I live a life with of so many questions with no answers. I sleep early every evening; yet, I should sleep later if I had my family members. I live in a village where the head person is demobilized from an armed group and many community members have their relatives in armed groups operating in DRC and treat genocide survivors as spies. I feel like I live in a forest, a complex lifestyle that has no beginning and the end".

"I lost all my family during the genocide. During the commemoration period, when I go to memorial with others, and when people are asked to put flowers on mass graves, it is a hard time for me because I don't know where my relatives were buried. Owing to that heavy wound, I decided to stop going to the commemoration. But when I shared my experiences with my peers within the group, they challenged me and asked me if I know people who are inside the graves. They recommended me to view the remains of people in mass graves as my relatives! This helped me to view commemoration with a different perspective and from there I felt a sense of release", a woman from Duhozanye, Musanze.

With that testimony, some members asked for an apology from their colleagues, as they judged people who did not attend commemoration events, of forgetting their past. The above testimonies from the group helped them to understand why some colleagues never attend commemoration events.

CRITICAL THINKING

'Promotion of Civil Participation and Peacebuilding'

Never Again Rwanda field office is located in the southern province, Huye district, Ngoma sector, Butare cell, Taba village at a distance of 126 km from Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda. It has been operational since 2012, implementing the 'Promotion of civil participation and peacebuilding' which contributes 'to promoting mutual understanding, respect, and use of conflict resolution processes among youth in order to build sustainable peace'.

In the southern province, NAR's boundary partners comprise of secondary school teachers and students organized in 14 peace clubs, 7 non-schooling youth associations in local communities and 30 youth volunteers from four universities.

NAR believes that empowering critical thinking youth as actors for change processes at various levels will support the development and strengthening of mutual understanding, respect and the use of non-violent conflict resolution processes. Thus contributing to sustainable peace in the region.

To achieve the overall goal, NAR uses a variety of approaches:

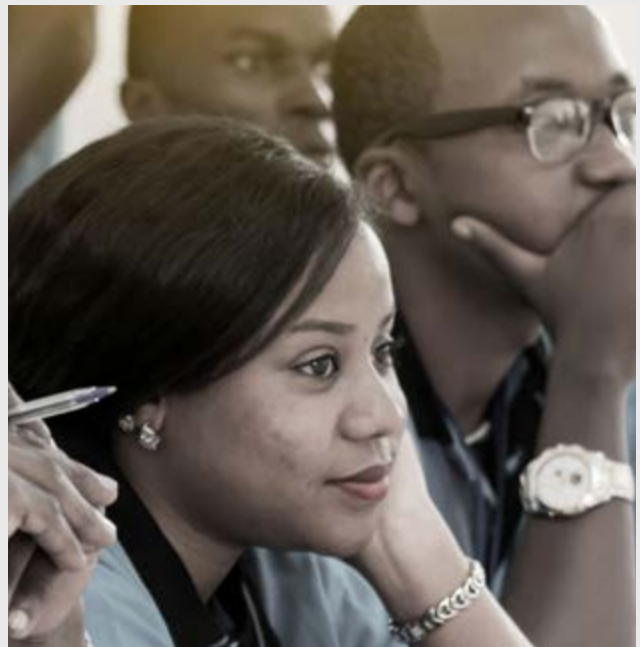
- 1 Creating forums for dialogue among the youth, local, national, regional and international
- 2 Organising trainings for key people especially in conflict resolution and critical thinking amongst the youth and teachers
- 3 The Development of critical thinking skills through the encouragement of discussions in various forms
- 4 Empowering volunteers as active peace builders to support youth peace clubs and associations

In 2016, NAR trained 28 volunteers on the approach of critical thinking.

At the beginning of the sessions, participants understand that a critical thinker is someone who is criticizing everything, and is very intelligent and has to be a political figure or any other well-known person.

Throughout the discussions using tools such as barometer of values, moral dilemmas, quotes and debate based on newspaper articles that a clearer understanding of critical thinking was embraced by open-mindedness, accept diverging opinions and basing one's thinking on evidence.

By the end of the training, a good number of participants increased their level of responsibility to use critical thinking to address issues hindering peace in their daily lives.



STORIES FROM HUYE: WHY CRITICAL THINKING IS IMPORTANT?



“ Three years ago I used to believe in everything I was told. I was not interested in the news or questioning stories that I heard ”, Diane Akiteka
Here are two stories from Youth participants

Diane Akiteka,

A four year student in Arts and creative industry from the University of Rwanda, Huye campus tells her story. Three year ago, I used to believe in everything I was told. I was not interested in the news or questioning stories that I heard. Sometimes I made wrong decisions and spent a million of sleepless nights regretting what I did. This was obvious because I couldn't think about the consequences that might result from my actions.

In February 2015, my close friend informed me about Never Again Rwanda (NAR). I went with her to the local public speaking and exchange event. I attentively listened to speeches by the youth on the theme selected by NAR. I felt awakened by the event and started thinking about my life and how I could be useful to my family and community members. I decided to join NAR and become part of the volunteers' team. Later in November 2015, I was among 28 NAR volunteers attending the Huye training on critical thinking skills.

The training has been one of the most rewarding experiences. I committed myself to share those interesting skills to my fellow members of University Women Students Association.

In January 2016, before the second semester, I was shocked to learn of the results of my fellow students. More than 60 per cent had, had to re-take one module. This had been my first test as a critical thinker and a students' representative in my faculty. The situation was difficult as many students were from the fourth year in different departments. So, according to academic rules and regulations, they would not be able to graduate at the end of the year.

I began investigating the reason for failure. The analysis lead to the lecturer who had prepared an exam on topics which were different from what had been taught. I decided to advocate on behalf of my fellow students and face the university council.

Fortunately, I was trained on how to find and use evidence. I collected the information and facts to support my arguments. I went with the syllabus of that module as well as the examination paper. I also brought a diary in which the class representative wrote down, on a daily basis, the number of hours taught, module titles and their contents.

The university council examined the content of the module in question and the examination paper I brought. By using acquired critical thinking skills, when I was asked what can be done to solve the issue. I didn't want to harm any of the two sides. I was convinced that as a critical thinker, I had to balance and imagine the consequences that may result from my actions and decisions. I requested them to remove that module from the first semester and put it on the second semester timetable. The idea was approved by the university council. Students re-did the module again and performed well in the exam. Later, I shared the critical thinking skills with members of University Women association.

I am very grateful to NAR for having built my capacity in peacebuilding and critical thinking, without this opportunity, I wouldn't have been able to advocate on behalf of my fellow students. I feel empowered and able to share my opinions and package my arguments with evidence. I am very proud to say that with critical thinking skills, youth from the universities will be given a space to confidently speak to professors on the change we can bring to the universities and communities. Thank you!

“

The world suffers a lot. Not because of the violence of bad people but because of the silence of good people

”

Napoleon Bonaparte, Critical Thinking

Jean Bosco Bikorimana,

a youth volunteer working with NAR, Huye, Southern province.

He was moved by experiences and ideas shared by students from Ecole de Sciences Nyamagabe,

Jean Bosco was impressed by the work they are doing in peacebuilding in their schools and communities. This challenged his values, principles and attitudes. He thought about his contribution to peace and the role he could play to make it a reality in his community.

As part of the Critical Thinking facilitation,

the quote by Napoleon Bonaparte has been key, to finding a way to start peace work in his school: “The world suffers a lot. Not because of the violence of bad people. But because of the silence of the good people.” As a secondary school teacher, Bikorimana became aware of an unjust situation taking place at his school. The new appointed Dean of studies became known for beating students who arrived late to class and as a result, many of the students took exception to the dean and had begun to conspire against the dean.

To prevent the situation from deteriorating, Bikorimana decided to look for a possible solution to resolve the issue. Whilst he knew it would not be easy to challenge authority which could impact negatively on his professional life. He also became aware of the serious consequences that could result from this case if he did not act.

He knew some schools where students used violent means to make their voices heard. For example setting the school building on fire or refusing to attend classes, go on strikes and damage school doors and windows.

Bikorimana decided to tackle the situation head on. He met the Dean of studies in his office and discussed the corporal punishment being administered. At the beginning, the Dean was reluctant to change his approach as he considered corporal punishment an effective way to punish children. Bikorimana tried to offer him other solutions to motivate students to come early at school instead of only punishing them for not being on time. In time, the Dean of studies was persuaded to stop hurting students and instead began a campaign on the benefits of time management among students in the schools.

Students were very happy to discuss with him the various reasons that resulted in them being late for class. They collectively found peaceful ways to solve potential conflicts that may arise in the future. The Dean of studies made tremendous changes in his leadership system. He became more open to the ideas of his colleagues and began showing a great willingness to collaborate with them on a daily basis. He began consulting them before taking decisions which might affect the daily lives of both students and teachers. Bikorimana has become a critical thinking mentor in his school and a special advisor to the Dean.

Bikorimana has been willing to share this story to other people so that they don't feel fear in challenging authority. He wishes to encourage people to stand up for their rights and commit to making this world a peaceful place to live.

“

Bikorimana, has been willing to share this story with other people, so that they don't feel fear in challenging authority.

”

THEY COLLECTIVELY
FOUND PEACEFUL WAYS
TO SOLVE POTENTIAL
CONFLICTS THAT MAY ARISE
IN THE FUTURE.



International Day of Peace

Youth parliamentarian's discussions 2016



On the 21 September, 2016 NAR in partnership with the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) hosted the Youth parliamentarian exchange on International day of peace and attracted 354 people with 136 women; including 258 youth representatives from all districts, 71 decisions makers and 25 media.

The discussions evolved around the ***“Building blocks for peace: The role of young people in promoting peace and sustainable development”***.

The event also attracted members of parliament, representatives from various governmental organizations and, collaborating peacebuilding partners. Mr. Stephen Rodriguez, the Head of UNDP Rwanda, commented, “We cannot replace peace with anything. We tasted a situation where there was no peace, and we know what it feels like. We also tasted the situation where there is peace, and we are feeling it”.

While in their speeches, officials reiterated the need to focus on youth as peace agents to build sustainable peace in their communities, the youth committed themselves to become peace ambassadors in their respective communities and fight Genocide ideology, as well as combat issues affecting them, such as child trafficking, drug abuse and terrorism. "We, the youth have something to contribute to the peacebuilding processes in Rwanda. All institutions, citizens and leaders have to engage the youth to enable a peaceful society. Youth, as the future bearers of the country, we have lot to offer in building sustainable peace, through some initiatives we can organize in our communities, schools which bring people together and give them room to reconcile", a female youth participant.

In the meeting, the youth challenged the Rwandan policy on reconciliation by raising concerns on what they termed

"Political reconciliation" as opposed to a genuine one. "In my view, we have a political Unity and Reconciliation among Rwandans, and there is no true and genuine Unity and Reconciliation. Don't you think this could be a barrier to sustainable peace in Rwanda", a female youth from University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (INILAK) challenged a panel of decisions makers.

The majority of youth demonstrated an understanding of blocs for peace to overcoming the barriers which can hinder sustainable peace. "In my opinion, blocks for peace means that challenges to sustainable peace such as poverty, hunger, lack of access to clean water, social inequalities and injustices, environmental degradation, diseases, corruption, negative stereotypes, are eradicated since they create fertile grounds for conflicts in our communities. Overcoming them is key to sustainable development which is the foundation for a sustainable peace", a male youth.

"We tasted a situation where there was no peace and we know what that feels like. We also tasted a situation where there is peace, and we are feeling it",

Head of UNDP, Stephen Rodrigues



Cross Border Dialogue



Aiming for Peace in the Great Lakes region

The Cross border dialogue for Peace in the Great Lakes region programme uses participatory action research to bring together Rwandans, Burundians and the Congolese people in a cross border dialogue, where they discuss and come up with their own solutions. For instance, land issues, migration in the region and the exploitation of people in the region (identity manipulation). NAR works together with six other partner civil society organizations in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Through a participatory action research (PAR) process, the programme seeks to transform the actors involved in the process into ultimate change agents for peace. In addition to this collective self-analysis, the programme is built on dialogue and advocacy processes to pursue change and sustainable peace, through achieving concrete results and impact.

"The saying 'union is strength' is not in vain."

Through dialogue spaces, the programme has successfully set up and implemented regional mechanisms and dialogue spaces that have gained legitimacy and buy-in among community members, decision makers and regional organisations alike.

"The saying 'union is strength' is not in vain. Moreover, it has its raison d'être in the field of peacebuilding.

Today's activity proves eloquent in this respect, in so far as it highlights what can be achieved by combining the efforts of all concerned actors in the region, including community members, civil society actors, and political authorities", said the Advisor to the Administrative Council of Rusizi District, who represented the Mayor of Rusizi in the meeting.



Reflection on cross border spaces of peace



Reflection on Cross Border dialogue space in the Great Lakes region.

On a warm afternoon, a group of neighbours came together in Rwanda's Bugesera district to share, talk and most importantly listen to one another in the name of peacebuilding.

They aren't neighbours in a conventional sense: in fact, half of them are Rwandans and the other half Burundians. Despite living in different countries, these two communities often interact because they live along an artificial line drawn across the two countries one hundred years ago. Sometimes the interactions are positive, but other times, living in such close proximity can cause tension and even lead to violence. That's why the Great Lakes cross border Peace-Building Program is so important for these two communities. The initiation of the first permanent cross-border dialogue space in the Great Lakes Region, where people living in border-regions come together in the spirit of respect and mutual understanding.

"We look alike, we talk the same language, we share the same air, sunshine and our children get married to each other. In addition, we were colonized by the same nation, got our independence the same day and share the sad and happy times," said one participant during Wednesday's dialogue.

It is that type of sentiment that the Great Lakes Peace-Building Program aims to tackle through the permanent dialogue spaces. Working in border communities in the Great Lakes Region which has struggled with outbursts of violence since independence in the 1960s. The programme promotes education and dialogue as a means of addressing and preventing conflict; and increasing understanding among parties that may have competing interests. Initiated by NAR's partner, Interpeace, the programme has brought

together six local NGOs in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to teach participants to tolerate differences and to resolve conflict in non-violent ways. Throughout the course of the meeting, the participants discussed the theme of cross-border population movements, and identified some of the positive aspects of the topic, as well as some of the challenges that arise from these movements.

"Cross-border movements are crucial for citizens of the two sides of the border; people cross the border for many purposes, including business, visiting friends and relatives, access to health facilities, employment," a participant said.

However, the group agreed that illegal cross border movements are causing problems for the Bugesera-Kirondo community. Issues around fraud, child labour, a flow of stolen materials have arisen and lead to tension, suspicion and mistrust between Rwandans and Burundians living in the area.

For example, Burundians were particularly concerned about children dropping out of school to cross the border to Rwanda, looking for work in Rwandan homes. The perception that while Rwandan students were going to school and being educated, Burundian children were working in the homes where those students lived, has created tension between the two communities.

Through the dialogue, the Rwandans were given the opportunity to demonstrate that there were some nuances to the perception of the Burundian child labourers versus the privileged Rwandan child students. They expressed that this wasn't the case with all the children who crossed the border and informed the Burundians that some of the children had been taken into Rwandan families and were supported to get their education, with a number of them graduating from primary and secondary schools. Still, the group acknowledged that the issue of child labour was a serious

problem that should be addressed.

By listening to one another and mutually agreeing on the appropriate solution for the issue, the group proposed that there should be more awareness and sensitivity to the issue of child labour in Bugesera, and that through advocacy and working with the local leaders; addressing child labour should be a priority for the community. In particular, the group found a way that they could address the issue directly, through the network they had just formed among themselves.

The plan, which is currently being implemented, follows that when the Rwandan members of the dialogue group become aware of a Burundian child who has crossed the border looking for work, they contact one of the Burundian participants and prepare a plan for returning the child to his or her home. This is just one of a number of grassroots initiatives that the group came up with to improve cross-border relations, through the participatory nature of the Great Lakes Peace-Building Program

"We look alike, we talk the same language, we share the same air, sunshine and our children get married to each other. In addition, we were colonized by the same nation, got our independence the same day and share the sad and happy times,"

Governance and Rights



YOUTH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Youth for Human Rights Day is a project whose role is to build the leadership and advocacy skills of young Rwandans (both women and men) to better understand and be able to stand up for their own rights and the rights of vulnerable communities. The main activity held by NAR was the National Conference on Human Rights, which was held on the 12th December 2016. It was held under the theme of "Stand up for someone's rights today: The Role of Rwandan youth in promoting a sustainable culture of Human rights" and brought together different stakeholders.

The conference was attended by 160 people; we discussed some of the issues that were part of youth discussions and also gave them an opportunity to the youth to engage with government officials and civil society with regard to their role in promoting Human Rights.

Youth for Human Rights (Y4HR) project responds to the intolerance and human rights challenges that are constantly not only seen in Rwanda but also within the region.

Therefore targeting the young generation is the entry point and since young people are potential agents of change the intended activities will have far-reaching implications for the respect of diversity.

The project is being implemented in eight districts which are Nyabihu in the Western province, Musanze in the Northern Province, Huye in the Southern Province, Bugesera and Rwamagana in the Eastern province and lastly Kicukiro, Gasabo and Nyarugenge in the City of Kigali.

1070

Young people were engaged in the project, of which 489 were young women.

94

'thought leaders' were trained on Human rights protection and advocacy

734

 youth

Including 389 young girls participated in the monthly dialogue sessions on an inclusive Human rights approach; with 645 handbooks on Human Rights and Educational materials distributed

160

young people took part in the National conference on Human rights, of those there were 90 young women.



The Commemoration Conference, April 2016

The Commemoration Conference held in April 2016 engaged young people to understand why it important to remember what happened in 1994 in the Genocide against the Tutsis and to honour the lives of those who lost their lives at that time. The participation of young people in the commemoration conference is vital to engage young people in commemoration events as a reminder for future generations to avoid the mistakes of the past where over one million people lost their lives and to never let it happen again.



Speaking Out!



Participation in Citizen Forums

In 2016, the programme established nine citizens forums which convened on a monthly basis to discuss their needs, concerns and priorities. The concept of citizen participation has been greatly enhanced through the citizen forums, especially regarding the topics discussed and the resolutions reached. Citizen forums have offered a platform through which using participatory dialogue; citizens are informed about their rights and their need to contribute to issues of governance. This has led to an increase in the need to hold local leaders accountable. Participants in both existing and new citizen forums demonstrated interest and enthusiasm in their discussions on needs, issues, and priorities.

The governance and rights program supports responsive and participatory governance and empowers citizens, particularly the youth to take part in decision-making processes within their communities in order to foster a just and democratic society.



Citizen forum in Shyara sector (Bugesera)

“

I am happy to hear these issues discussed here, in the presence of the council. This will enhance the connection between the citizens and us. From this discussion we have gained many ideas to deepen our discussion in the council that shows it is possible if we work together to find lasting solutions for challenges on land taxes. It is clear that members through the discussions are gaining an understanding of their rights and responsibilities, the sector council is open for everyone to participate -

”

President of the Nyamata sector council, during the Citizen Forum meeting in May 2016.



Why Citizen Forum spaces are relevant to communities in Rwanda?



Gahongayire Consolle is a member of the Rutare citizens' forum and of the Rutare sector advisory council, Gicumbi district. She commented that her participation in NAR's monthly citizens' forum meetings has changed her attitude, both as a citizen and a decision-maker. She expressed that before attending the citizen forums she never followed things very closely but after attending the monthly meetings, the experience she gleaned from the citizens' forum has taught her to follow up on matters more carefully and analyse community issues with serious attention. "I used to be a passive observer of community issues but this changed after joining the citizens' forum. Now I follow up on everything and make sure that community issues are communicated to local leaders and carefully addressed by them" said Consolle. She added: "being



a member of the sector advisory council, has provided me with critical analysis skills and the confidence to stand tall and tackle governance issues by proposing clear recommendations to my community." She added that she successfully advocated for children who had dropped out of school in Kigabiro cell, Rutare sector and the majority of them have now gone back to school.

The ability of the citizens' forum as a platform to register such a success is a significant step in the right direction, and it further empowers citizen forum members on an individual level because it shows them that they are part of something that brings about change in their communities.

As a NAR program officer for the Governance and Rights program, I have attended citizen forums meeting every month since February 2016, and they have come a long way since then. I have seen the power of the citizens' forum develop into a significant citizen platform.

"For me one of the pivotal personal encounters of a citizen forums that I was a part, was an initiative by citizens' forum members in Muhoza sector, Musanze district. They helped to renovate the home of Nyiragahinda, a 70-year old widow whose house was in disrepair. This was embarked upon in the form of community work, Umuganda, where all citizens' forum members, and the NAR governance program officers participated in. It was a great experience because it illustrated how the citizens' forum had encouraged ordinary citizens, by their own initiative, to assemble together and help their fellow community members.

Kajiwabo Dieudonné and **Nikuze Mathias** are members of the Mukamira citizens' forum in Nyabihu district. Both are very active in their citizens' forum meetings. For instance, the meeting on September 2016 discussed issues of high property taxes, with a report on



the discussion submitted to the District council in Njyanama.

"The land tax here in Mukamira sector used to be 30 Rwf per square meter. After having discussed it during the citizens' forum and having exchanged opinions with other forum members, we took the initiative to write an open letter to the sector authority" said Kajiwabo. When asked for his opinion about how the programme is benefiting citizens in Mukamira sector, Mr. Kajiwabo responded

"The land tax here in mukamira sector used to be 30 rwf per square meter. After having discussed it during the citizens' forum and having exchanged opinions with other forum members, we took the initiative to write an open letter to the sector authority"

with the following:

"We submitted one of the recommendations from the citizens' forum report regarding the reduction of property taxes from 30 Rwf per square meter to 15 or 10 Rwf per square meter to the Executive Secretary of the sector and it was considered by the District Councils (Njyanama). Since the Mukamira sector is not an urban sector but rather a rural sector, we suggested to the authorities to lower this property tax to 15 or 10 Rwf per square meter because according to the law, Mukamira sector is located in a rural area."

Following this recommendation, the sector councils fixed the property tax rate at 10 Rwf per square meter in Mukamira sector. "Some of the citizens in Mukamira had begun to leave the area in order to go settle elsewhere like in Musanze District, where you pay a lot less in property tax but after seeing the decision of the district council to lower the tax, those same citizens returned" said Mr. Nikuze Mathias.

The Role of the Media



The role of the media is crucial in promoting citizen participation in the creation of good governance'

The year began with high expectations to implement major activities of the programme. This required intense energy and vibrancy to ensure careful navigation of local government channels, since activities directly or indirectly challenged the status quo; empowering citizens, calling for accountability, publishing research on participatory governance and the use of the media as a catalyst for change.

During 2016, the media was established as boundary partner, the media is perceived as a catalyst for change especially in promoting a culture of respect of human rights, enhancing transparency and accountability.

The programme identified 12 local media houses, including radio, television, newspapers



and online media, with which it will work throughout the programme. The media outlets were chosen based on specific criteria pertaining to their ability to report on participatory governance. Media coverage reached at least 10 districts where the programme operates.

These specific media houses participated in five days training on governance reporting and dialogue facilitation. The aim of the training was to provide journalists with the skills to report professionally on issues of governance in order to inform citizens of policy and programme developments as well as to enable decision-makers to be aware of citizen needs, concerns and priorities.



“

I plan to produce at least three investigative stories per month, by telling and showing citizens how it is important to participate in governance.”

The use of Media will be an opportunity for citizens to communicate their priorities to the government and to the decision makers, and all the while promoting a sense of ownership of certain policies and programs.

The media trainings' impact on the participants:

“Before this training, I couldn't organize a dynamic debate between decisionmakers and citizens, but after this training, I am confident and have a lot of knowledge to organise community dialogue by critically planning and host a debate between decision makers and citizens on a sensitive topics. I gained a better understanding

of the role of media on governance reporting.”

“I plan to produce at least three investigative stories per month, by telling and showing citizens how it is important to participate in governance.”

The programme will build on this solid foundation towards further supporting the media to promote and facilitate citizen participation in governance.



Launch of 'Governing with and for citizens: Lessons from a post-genocide Rwanda'



The participants validated the research findings and recommendations, selected and prioritized new topics for further research.

To validate the research findings, NAR and InterPeace organized a National Stakeholder's meeting in Kigali on 24th August, 2016.

The meeting brought together 146 people, including the high level officials from central and local government, donors, staff from different embassies, national and international organizations, members of parliament, CSOs, the Media, as well as citizens from different districts. The participants validated the research findings and recommendations, selected and prioritized new topics for further research.

The Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) highly appreciated the findings and demonstrated interest to cooperate with NAR in the research processes and committed to meet the leadership of each district and discuss how the recommendations should be synchronized at all levels; and to set strategies to increase citizens participation in planning, budgeting, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs.



International donors and diplomats were present at the launch



In attendance was a wide range of stakeholders from local and national government, the international community and civil society organisations, including academics and practitioners.



Key stakeholders included representatives of the Rwandan police.

International conference on Healing and Social Cohesion

10th- 11th November, 2016



In November, 2016 NAR hosted the 'Societal Healing conference and Participatory Governance' to exchange experiences on healing, social cohesion and reconciliation in post-genocide and extreme violent societies. The two day conference brought together 140 participants from the USA, Canada, Belgium, South Africa, Kenya, Somalia, Central Africa Republic, France and Rwanda.





The conference participants included local and national government, the international donor community, national and international scholars and practitioners and wide range of representatives from civil society organisations from Rwanda and neighbouring countries.



Participation and collaboration with decision makers



The participation and collaboration with Decision makers

The success of Never Again Rwanda's work is highly dependent on the support of decision makers at different levels. It is against this background, that Never Again Rwanda engaged decisions makers in different activities to attract their attention and increase their awareness on the programme benefits.

For instance, high level and local government officials were engaged in the mapping of healing actors, research on participatory governance, launch of citizen forums, Peace-Building Institute, International Day of Peace, National

commemoration conference, National stakeholders meeting and International conference on Healing and social cohesion, Conference on International Human Rights Day.

This continued engagement of decision makers both in healing and governance, through conferences, research, and other key events inform them of citizens' views and gradually reduces the gap between citizens and decisions makers. The commitment for the decision makers to support the healing process has increased and was demonstrated both in the resolution of the National dialogue forums as well as in the speeches of

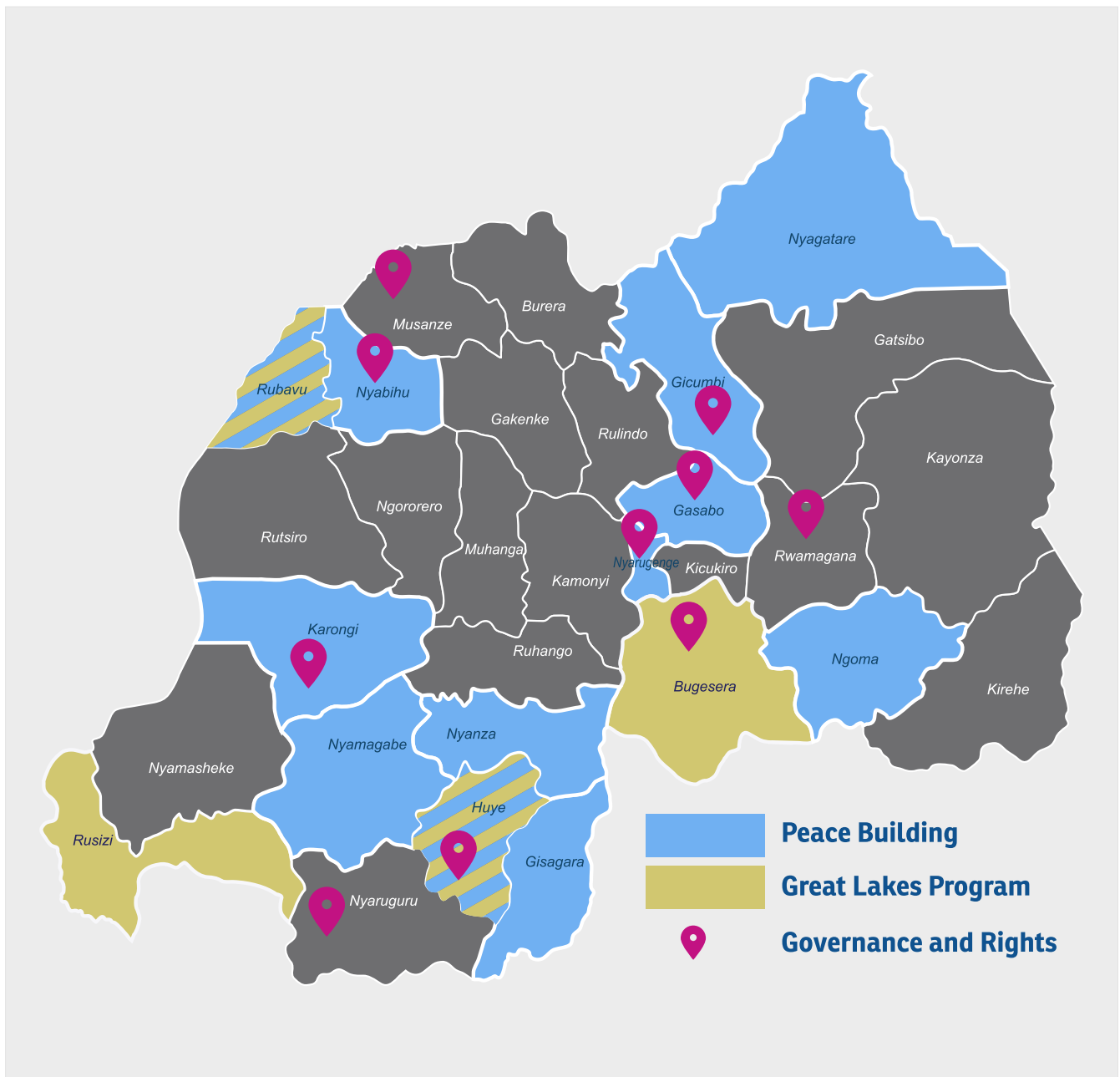
different officials during the week of the commemoration of the 1994 Genocide.

The engagement of decisions makers increased their interests and trust in the programme's approach.

In 2016 NAR was selected by NURC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to host two high level delegates from the Republic of Togo on unity and reconciliation. Equally, NURC co-organized a youth gathering "Itorero" together with the Ministry of Youth and ICT and requested NAR to suggest participants from diverse backgrounds and co-facilitate the dialogues since the focus on was on healing the wounds of the past.

Mapping:

Where NAR works?



Achievements



Peacebuilding

NAR trained 18 Peace Agents who facilitated newly established youth peace dialogues and spaces for peace in Musanze, Rubavu, Nyagatare, and Rulindo, Nyabihu, and Karongi districts.

Refresher training provided to existing 13 peace agents and 20 citizen's forum facilitators to improve their skills in facilitation of spaces for peace and citizen forums.

With a total of 15 Spaces for Peace including 7 spaces established in 2016. Currently, the spaces are operational in the following 12 districts: in Nyarugenge, Gasabo (Kigali city), Musanze, Rulindo and Gicumbi (Northern province), Nyabihu, Karongi and Rubavu (Western province), Huye, Muhanga and, Gisagara (Southern province), Ngoma and Nyagatare (Eastern Province).

During the year, the peace agents facilitated 112 Space for Peace monthly meetings.

The program also selected the 10 best youth project proposals out of the 53

project proposals submitted by youth. The selected youth participated in a 2 day training on entrepreneurial and business skills in partnership with the Business Development Fund (BDF). The 10 best winners of the youth innovations competitions will be awarded a start-up funds to implements their projects.

In addition, two baseline surveys on healing and participatory governance were conducted in 8 Spaces for Peace and 8 citizen forums to inform the program's implementation and collect baseline data on the programme's key performance indicators.

416 community and youth, of which 251 were women, attended the monthly dialogue meetings in 13 districts.

450 members of spaces for peace were interviewed for the Healing baseline survey.

34 students including 14 female participants attended the regional winter and summer Peace Building Institute in 2016.

340 youth of which 154 female participants from Huye, Nyanza and Nyamagabe participated in Critical Thinking discussions.

188 youth of which 84 female participants took part in a local public speaking and exchange

23 schools were visited in Huye, Nyanze and Gisagara districts

18

NAR trained Peace Agents who facilitated newly established youth peace dialogues and spaces for peace in Musanze, Rubavu, Nyagatare, and Rulindo, Nyabihu, and Karongi districts.

112

monthly meetings facilitated for Peace during the year by peace agents .

23

schools were visited in Huye, Nyanze and Gisagara districts

450

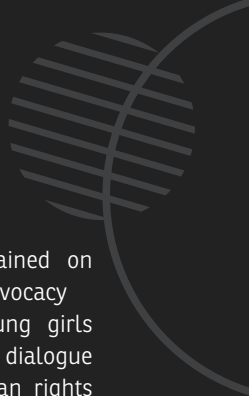
members of spaces for peace were interviewed for the Healing baseline survey.

34

students including 14 female participants attended the regional winter and summer Peace Building Institute in 2016.

188

youth of which 84 female participants took part in a local public speaking and exchange



The Great Lakes Region

There were 1,146 community members that participated in the activities of the Cross border dialogue for Peace in the Great Lakes region programme, of which 466 were female.

There were 14 cross border dialogue sessions including a tripartite dialogue organised in Bugarama, Bugesera and Rabavu; with each dialogue consisting of 30 community members on each occasion. There were four youth non-violent peace dialogues organised in the University of Huye, University of Rusizi and University of Gisenyi

192 youth, of which 155 female participants attended the University of Huye participated in youth Dialogue on

Cultural diversity, stereotypes, identities and conflicts in great Lakes

155 community members and decisions makers, with 58 women participated in international Day of Peace and discussed on Dialogue and barriers for Peace in Great Lakes region

80 people, including 31 women participated in dialogue between decisions makers and community members in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo

45 stakeholders, of which 21 women participated in meeting to reflect and share experiences on peacebuilding in Rwanda on the International day of Peace

young people were engaged in the project, of which 489 were young women.

94 'thought leaders' were trained on Human rights protection and advocacy 734 youth, including 389 young girls participated in the monthly dialogue sessions on an inclusive Human rights approach; with 645 handbooks on Human Rights and Educational materials distributed

160 young people took part in the National conference on Human rights, of those there were 90 young women.

1,146

Community members that participated in the activities of the Cross border dialogue for Peace in the Great Lakes region programme, of which 466 were female.

80

People, including 31 women participated in dialogue between decisions makers and community members in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo

45

people, including 31 women participated in dialogue between decisions makers and community members in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo

155

Community members and decisions makers, with 58 women participated in international Day of Peace and discussed on Dialogue and barriers for Peace in Great Lakes region

14

Stakeholders, of which 21 women participated in meeting to reflect and share experiences on peacebuilding in Rwanda on the International day of Peace

1070

Young people were engaged in the project, of which 489 were young women.

Governance and Rights

Citizen forums were established to empower citizens to strengthen the link between citizens and decision-makers, to create beneficial spaces between the beneficiaries of public policies and decision makers, and therefore strengthen government accountability in decentralized entities.

Never Again Rwanda established citizen forums in 8 districts in which the governance and rights program operates: Karongi district (Bwishyura sector), Musanze district (Muhoze sector), Gicumbi district (Rutare sector), Gasabo district (Gikomero sector), Bugesera district (Nyamata sector), Rwamagana district (Fumbwe sector), Huye district (Rusatira sector), and Nyaruguru district (Kibeho sector). In total 375 local people attended the citizen forum meetings on a monthly basis in their respective districts, of which 155 were women participants.

In the third quarter of 2016 two new citizen forums were launched in Nyabihu district (Mukamira sector) and Nyarugenge district (Mageragere sector), bringing the total number of Never Again Rwanda's citizen forums to 10.

In addition baseline data was collected for 7 new established spaces for peace and 2 new citizen forums. The programme will analyse the additional baseline data together with data to be collected for the Annual Follow Assessment to make comparisons. In line with capacity building, 12 media houses were identified and 22 journalists were trained on reporting and facilitation of sensitive issues in governance and healing. The purpose of the training was to increase media awareness and the ability to peacefully facilitate dialogue on policies, programs

and citizens' priorities at different levels.

The citizen forums also put in place advocacy sub-committees with 5 members (three men and two women). These advocacy sub-committees follow up on recommendations reached during the monthly citizens' forum meetings and conduct advocacy where possible.

Similarly, the training was provided to 19 citizens facilitators recruited to facilitate new citizens forums. The programme also established 5 additional citizens' forums in Nyabihu, Nyarugenge, Bugesera, Musanze, and Gicumbi district with a total of 13 operational citizen forums over 20 targeted in 10 Districts.

Programme staff supported and guided the citizen forums facilitators to organize 99 monthly meetings across 10 Districts as well as supported them in the process of advocating for the citizens needs and priorities identified during their monthly meetings.

NAR participated in 7 Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) meetings including a 2 day JADF open day in Gicumbi District; 2 days district retreat organized by Huye District; a 1 day JADF meeting in Bugesera and Nyarugenge and Nyaruguru Districts.

2 radio community forums organized in Gicumbi and Karongi District bringing together more than 600 citizens, including citizen forum members and decisions makers. In addition 6 Radio program shows were aired

300 citizens were interviewed for Governance baseline survey Never Again Rwanda established citizen forums in 8

8 districts

In which Never Again Rwanda established citizen forums in which the governance and rights program operates:

22 journalists

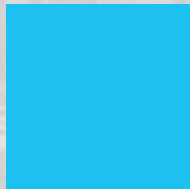
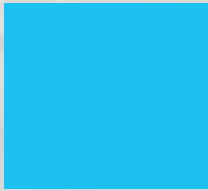
Were trained on reporting and facilitation of sensitive issues in governance and healing.

300 citizens

were interviewed for Governance baseline survey

375 local people

Local people attended the citizen forum meetings on a monthly basis in their respective districts





INTERNA

HEALING

2017 will mark another step towards creating impact

Having established 15 life-changing Spaces for Peace, and 13 Citizen Forums in several districts of Rwanda, the Societal Healing and Participatory Governance program (SHPG) will continue to strengthen those spaces and support boundary partners to contribute more meaningfully to the healing process and drive citizen-centred policy and decision making mechanisms. NAR will empower its spaces to reach another level towards defining sustainability of so-far achieved results and rethinking their own independence, engagement with the broader community and increased efforts for advocacy.

NAR recognizes that healing is a continuous process and acknowledges that memory can be an opportunity to heal societal wounds. 2017 marks the 23rd commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda in the 1994. NAR will host its 6th National Conference on Memory Policy and Practice which will give an opportunity to diverse young people, civil society organisations and government on the role of memory in promoting healing, and how youth could play a significant role in fighting Genocide ideology. In addition, NAR will join the rest of the world in celebrating the International Day of Peace by offering an opportunity to hundreds of Rwandan young people to discuss challenges and opportunities in achieving sustainable peace with legislators and the broader community alongside the International Day of Youth whereby NAR and Interpeace will award selected innovations to the Rwandan young people especially those using arts as expressive methods for healing.

To continue the process of empowering young people to be active citizens, 2017 will bring more engagement of youth in the Governance and Rights Pillar, to participate in the democratic processes and increase confidence and leadership skills to engage in decision and policy making.

The Great Lakes Program will continue to engage members of the Permanent Cross-Border Dialogues for Peace and map the cross-border actors in peacebuilding to strengthen collaborations as well as engage more decision makers.

Following recommendations from the 2016 research on Governance, NAR continues to create more avenues to promote evidence-based decision making and informing various actors on critical issues. NAR will conduct a Participatory Action research on "The Role of Civil Society Organizations in enhancing Citizen Participation in Governance".

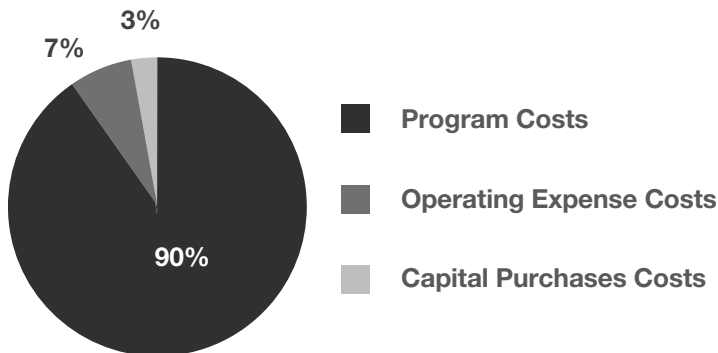
NAR is aware that if the programmes are "not engendered, then they are endangered". The year 2017 will be the time to begin implementing NAR gender strategy which seeks to create equal opportunities for participation and benefiting the impact of its programmes for both men and women.

“
**NAR is aware
 that if the
 programmes are not
 “engendered, then
 they endangered**
 ”

Financial Statement

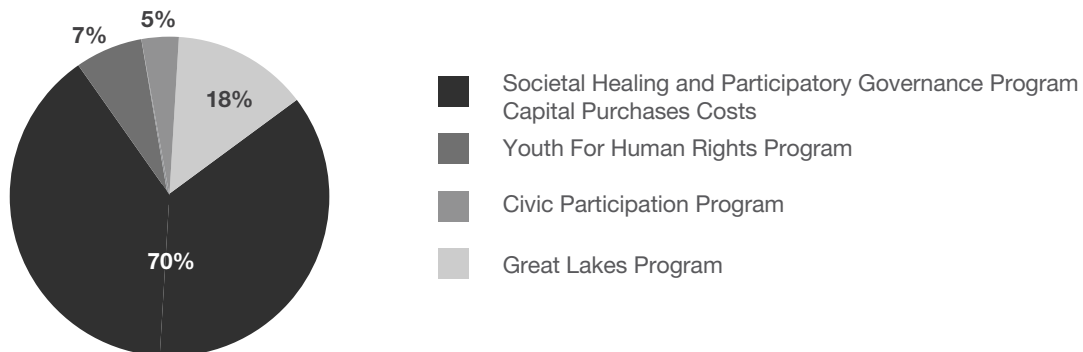
NAR 2016 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

| EXPENSES | 2016 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Programme costs | 1,546,051 |
| Capital Purchase costs | 54,877 |
| Operating Expenses costs | 119,796 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 1,720,724 |



NAR 2016 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR EACH PROGRAMME

| DESCRIPTION | Great Lakes Program | Societal Healing and Participatory Governance Programme | Youth for Human Rights Programme | Civic Participation Programme | Total Grant Received (USD) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Income | 317,161 | 1,208,993 | 117,083 | 88,330 | 1,731,567 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Programme Costs | 269,846 | 1,080,578 | 107,297 | 88,330 | 1,546,051 |
| Capital Purchase Costs | 0 | 54,877 | 0 | 0 | 54,877 |
| Operating Expenses | 47,315 | 64,215 | 8,266 | 0 | 119,796 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 317,161 | 1,199,670 | 115,563 | 88,330 | 1,720,724 |

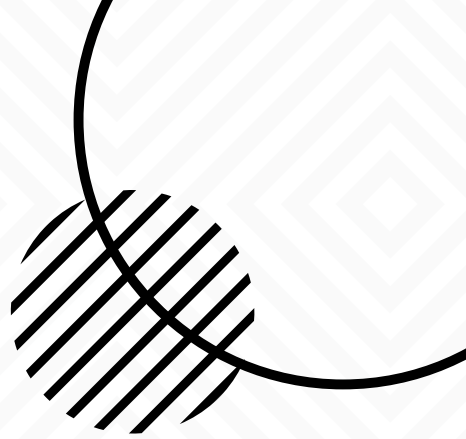


At the Healing conference on Social Cohesion (November 2016), Professor Theresa Seibert stated in her presentation that:



Healing is a process which is not counted in years, but rather in decades or even over generations





Never Again Rwanda
58 KG 9 Avenue Kigali
Nyaruturama, Kigali-Rwanda
+250 788 386 688
info@neveragainrwanda.org
www.neveragainrwanda.org



- Rwanda -