



The Next Generation: Rwanda Project 2021

Background

Since June 2016, GER and CFOR have been running an exciting program to support the reconciliation process in Rwanda.

We held five forums in the three districts of Kicukiro, Gasabo and Bugesera, where more than 500 people participated. Sixty of these participants were selected to also take part in a modular facilitator training programme. The Forums brought together survivors and perpetrators of the genocide, women who experienced rape during the genocide, elders and young people from families of perpetrators, young survivors, marginalized groups, returnees and refugees. Also involved were local authorities, religious leaders, police and the army.

The aim of our program is to deepen the existing process of reconciliation in Rwanda by way of facilitating communication around difficult themes, supporting a new level of interaction within the community that makes it possible to transform polarizations and heal the wounds from widespread personal and collective trauma and in this way prevent future violence. Our aim is also to resource community facilitators by way of training and mentoring, who go on to facilitate interactions in their respective communities.

Some of the results of our work together can be shared by way of testimonies of positive changes at the individual, familial and societal levels. Trainee facilitators are respected members of their communities and have gone on to lead group activities across their districts in places of worship, schools, and other community meeting spaces. Some facilitators were selected to share their experiences at the 2019 International Day of Peace, which was celebrated in Parliament.

Our next focus

With these positive results, the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) recommend that we roll out the program. They are particularly interested to engage more young people as they are now the most affected by the long-lasting effects of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. The experiences they face include trans-generational trauma; the



shame and stigma of young people from the families of perpetrators; lack of reliable truth about the history of Rwanda; the exclusion and isolation of young people; the exclusion of young people from marginalized groups; and the ending of jail terms of many genocide convicts who are struggling to reintegrate and the impact this has on the young people in their families.

The idea of focusing on young people is aligned with the vision of GER and CFOR and also arises as an outcome of our forums and trainings. Jean-Claude Audergon, co-founder of CFOR, who died last year, invited the youth to come forward in our Forum interactions. He was deeply touched and uplifted by seeing young people express their creativity and leadership in their communities to deepen the reconciliation process and prevent future violence. It is also a national priority since youth make up the majority of the Rwandan population with 75% under the age of 35. In order to ensure a future without conflict, discrimination or violence, we need to support young people to play a vital role in building the future they want.

Program aims

The aim of the program is to engage and deepen the process of reconciliation among the next generation, prevent trans-generational trauma and future violence and support young people in building their futures by moving beyond their historical wounds. This will involve bringing youth from diverse groups together and building awareness on the existing effects of genocide, the role they have to play in solving these, ending the shame and stigma rooted in history and moving towards a shared future as Rwandans.

Description of participants

The participants will be young people from the families of perpetrators, young victims of genocide, young people born after the genocide who are affected by the genocide-inflicted wounds of their parents, perpetrators who committed genocide when they were young, young people born from rape during the genocide and young people from marginalized groups. The identification of youth participants will be conducted by GER in collaboration with trained community facilitators and NURC Districts. In the Districts where we have no trainees, the identification of participants will be conducted by GER in collaboration with NURC Districts.



Legal status: N° 513/RGB/NGO/LP/07/2019, Head Office: KN 11 Ave 30. Gasabo, Remera, EAR Building.
Email: ger.globalr@gmail.com, Web: www.globalr.org, Tel: +250788370305, P.O. Box: 2117 Kigali, Rwanda

The project will be implemented in the following Districts: Musanze, Rwamagana, Ruhango, Gasabo, Kicukiro and Bugesera. The first three districts are additions to existing areas of implementation, which have been added to increase representation through the whole country. There are a large number of perpetrators within these districts finishing their jail terms and rejoining communities and other issues hindering young people from building their futures.

Each of the five districts will have two meetings. The first will be composed of 20 participants. The second will have 16 new participants plus four team leaders who will monitor and follow up activities; the team leaders will be comprised of two trainees from the previous program and two young people in local authorities.

Outreach

GER will work with previous trainees and local authorities in the new districts to reach out into communities to bring in diverse groups of young people from different backgrounds: survivors, perpetrators, marginalized groups, youth leaders and also teachers.

Meeting Facilitation

- The facilitator will ask the young people what they want to talk to each other about. The young people will discuss and list the issues, then make a consensus.
- Support interactions among young people, noticing the emotions that come up around these issues. Examples of emotional issues in past forums include: the shame felt by young people from perpetrators families (they might ask ‘what happened and how did it happen? Why did one Rwandan kill another Rwandan?); conflicts with perpetrators who are reintegrating in their families after finishing their jail terms; teenage pregnancy, drug abuse and other crosscutting issues affecting young people.
- Work with roles and polarization, noticing and appreciating shifts in people’s awareness and feelings and a deepening of their understanding.
- Support the possibility of continuing conversations in families. Build young people’s capacity to be a bridge of reconciliation in their families and communities.



Legal status: N° 513/RGB/NGO/LP/07/2019, Head Office: KN 11 Ave 30. Gasabo, Remera, EAR Building.
Email: ger.globalr@gmail.com, Web: www.globalr.org, Tel: +250788370305, P.O. Box: 2117 Kigali, Rwanda

- At the end of each meeting, participants will develop an action plan to support them in taking the activities developed in the forum back to their respective families and communities. GER will work with team leaders to monitor these activities, identifying existing challenges, proposing solutions and a way forward.
- Plan for conversations between meetings participants through WhatsApp groups, to keep up the spirit of connection and support, and to share challenges faced.

Activities Recorded

Some activities will be video recorded; others will be audio recorded. There will be an orientation meeting with GER video producers and the CFOR production team.

Action Plan Overview

The action plan developed at the end of the forum by each participant will include the following activities:

- Facilitating inter-generational conversations within families on existing issues.
- Identifying and encouraging other young people to talk about these issues; sharing what they have learnt with them.
- Conversations within their communities will include the objective of building Rwanda for all Rwandans and facilitating a shared future.

Follow up

The leadership team will support and mentor young people in implementing activities in their respective families and communities.

A follow-up will be conducted quarterly by GER, the NURC District, and the team leader of each group. The aim is to share experience of the ongoing community activities and challenges faced, propose solutions to these challenges, and document participant testimonies that will support the scaling up of our activities. At the end of the group activities there will be a general feedback meeting at Kigali (central) bringing together selected trainees, NURC central, members of Parliament, police, the media, and other stakeholders to present the results from our activities and share experience of the work taking place in each district. We



Legal status: N° 513/RGB/NGO/LP/07/2019, Head Office: KN 11 Ave 30. Gasabo, Remera, EAR Building.
 Email: ger.globalr@gmail.com, Web: www.globalr.org, Tel: +250788370305, P.O. Box: 2117 Kigali, Rwanda

will also seek to mobilize policy and decision makers' awareness of our model "World Work" and its impact so that it can be rolled out into other areas of the country.

Implementation and Cooperation

Each activity will take place at the district level to facilitate attendance of participants and ensure the district ownership of the activities and the support of GER and CFOR at District levels. NURC Central will also be represented in each activity.

Audiovisual recordings of activities will be translated into English. All participants will sign consent forms to allow the use of their images and testimonies for disseminating our learning and conducting fundraising for GER and CFOR activities. Activities will run from July 2021 through December 2021.

Activities timeline

Activity	Location	Period (month)	Responsibilities (names of trainees who will support)
Identification of participants	Musanze,	1 st week of July	GER and NURC District
	Ruhango,	2 nd week of July	GER and NURC District
	Rwamagan,	3 rd week of July	GER and NURC District
	Bugesera,	4 th week of July	Mutare Antoine and Umumarungu Diane
	Kicukiro	4 th week of July	Hakizimana Patrick and Didier
	Gasabo	4 th week of July	Rutabana Damascene, and Ngeyo Charle
First meeting	Musanze	1 st week of August	GER and NURC District
Second meeting	Musanze	1 st week of August	GER and NURC District
First meeting	Ruhango	2 nd week of August	GER and NURC District
Second meeting	Ruhango	2 nd week of August	GER and NURC District
First meeting	Rwamagana	3 rd week of August	GER and NURC District
Second meeting	Rwamagana	3 rd week of August	GER and NURC District



Legal status: N° 513/RGB/NGO/LP/07/2019, Head Office: KN 11 Ave 30. Gasabo, Remera, EAR Building.

Email: ger.globalr@gmail.com, Web: www.globalr.org, Tel: +250788370305, P.O. Box: 2117 Kigali, Rwanda

First meeting	Bugesera	1 st week of September	Mutware Antoine and Umumararungu Diane
Second meeting	Bugesera	1 st week of September	Mutware Antoine and Umumararungu Diane
First meeting	Kicukiro	2 nd week of September	Hakizimana Patrick and Didier
Second meeting	Kicukiro	2 nd week of September	Hakizimana Patrick and Didier
First meeting	Gasabo	3 rd week of September	Rutabana Damascene, and Ngeyo Charle
Second meeting	Gasabo	3 rd week of September	Rutabana Damascene, and Ngeyo Charle
Monitoring activities and documenting stories	All 5 districts	October-November	GER with team leaders
Workshop with NURC central, MPs, religious leaders, police, media, stakeholders and selected trainees.	Kigali (central)	3 rd week of October	GER
Feedback meeting with team leaders (to close activities and plan for the next year 2022)	Kigali (central)	4 th week of October	GER
Compiling and delivering reports and audiovisual material for GER and CFOR		November – December	GER and CFOR