



CEJP Rwanda

COMMISSION EPISCOPALE JUSTICE ET PAIX RWANDA

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CEJP Rwanda

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# COMMISSION EPISCOPALE JUSTICE ET PAIX RWANDA

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## CEJP STAFF DISCUSS OPERATIONAL PLANNING OF YEAR 2022



ON 02/17/2022, CEJP RWANDA HELD A SPECIAL MEETING ON THE COLLECTIVE EXCHANGE ON THE OPERATIONAL PLANNING FOR THE YEAR 2022. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, THE NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE CEJP RWANDA, FATHER VALENS NIRAGIRE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEETING WHERE HE RECALLED THAT ALL THE SUCCESSES OF THE INSTITUTION COME FROM THE LOVE OF THE INSTITUTION, TEAM AND HARD WORK AS WELL AS DETERMINATION.

The moderation of the session was held by the Technical Advisor Mr. Francis ZEBAZE and the Program Manager Mr. RUGABA Jean Julien. Presentations from different department started with the finance and administration. In her presentation, the finance officer underlined the necessity of consolidate the annual operational plan of the institution. Every single commission department were reminded to respect and keep in mind institution's finance practices and procedures and also be aware about conditions required before engaging the expenses.

In the second presentation the department of Public Relations and Communication presented the level of current communication working points of CEJP Rwanda. In its presentation, the Desk Communicator in Chief insisted that the improvement of institutional communication is not the responsibility of a single person: " the institutional communication is a collective effort all the members of the team, meaning the responsibility of all CEJP Rwanda staff at all levels who may join effort in order to play a significant role in supporting communication strategies." At the project level, all project managers presented their operational plans for phase 2022, focus of the presentation were planned activities, expected results and how to overcome the challenges that may arise.



# IN GAKENKE DISTRICT, CEJP RWANDA JOINS RWANDANS IN CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



“THE ROLE OF GENDER EQUALITY IN MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE TOOK CENTER STAGE WHEN CEJP RWANDA JOINED THE PEOPLE OF GAKENKE DISTRICT TO MARK THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ON TUESDAY, MARCH 8 UNDER THE THEME: “GENDER EQUALITY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE”

There is an important link between gender equality and climate change, because we cannot hope to achieve the future we want without focusing on gender equality, said Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of the Environment, on Tuesday. In Gakenke District, CEJP Rwanda has been building the capacity of women for their effective participation in decision-making since 2017. Supporting Women to join community's exchange space for capacity building and empowerment purpose belong among others approaches to the main strategy using for the implementation of CEJP RWANDA project in GAKENKE.

All that aims to improve and support active participation of women in decision-making spaces, in management of politics and administrative affairs at district, sector, cell and village level. On the other hand of the project women get more aware through local mobilization on the advantages and disadvantages of seeing women occupy decision-making positions, and the difficulties they encounter in order to propose possible solutions and ultimately improve trust on women to participate in decision making to influence changes within the household and the community.

# CEJP RWANDA TOGETHER WITH SCIAF CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022 WITH ITS BENEFICIARIES



ON 8TH OF MARCH IN THE OCCASION OF WOMEN'S DAY, CEJP RWANDA IN COLLABORATION WITH EAR & WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF SCIAF ORGANIZED A TRAINING AT BUTAMWA TVET SCHOOL IN THE CONTEXT OF EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN.

This training aimed at enhancing financial literacy in young women in order to fight against economic dependence which is one cause of teenage early pregnancies. Such vocational training is one of the approaches using of CEJP to tackle "economic dependence and sexual ignorance among young people in Rwanda". The current project funded by the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) aim to contribute to the alleviation of the problems identified, i.e. economic dependence and the lack of information, training and appropriate orientation in matters of sexuality.

The training has coincided with the celebration of 2022 International women's day where the attendees have been also told about the link between gender, social equity and climate change, and recognize that without gender equality today, a sustainable future, an equal future, remains out of reach. Sister Epiphanie (the one in charge of project management) of the CEJP Side noted: *"At the same time, you are effective and powerful leaders and change-makers for climate adaptation and mitigation. You are obliged to be involved in sustainability initiatives around the world, and your participation and leadership results in more effective climate action, that's why you have to work hard for your future."*

## CEJP RWANDA PARTICIPATED IN BURUNDI IN A WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE-YEAR PROGRAM TO COMBAT DOMESTIC AND PROFESSIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE GREAT LAKES SUB-REGION

FROM MARCH 07 TO 11, 2022, IN THE CENTER OF SCHOENSTAT FATHERS IN BUJUMBURA, A WORKSHOP WAS HELD TO DEVELOP THE THREE-YEAR PROGRAM TO TACKLE DOMESTIC AND PROFESSIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE GREAT LAKES SUB-REGION, WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER CEJP BURUNDI, CEJP RWANDA, CDJP BUKAVU, CDJP CYANGUGU, CDJP GIKONGORO AND CARITAS GOMA.

The workshop was opened by Rev. Father Charles KARORERO, the Executive Secretary of CEJP Burundi on behalf of His Excellency Monsignor Georges BIZIMANA President of the CEJP at CECAB, who welcomed all participants to this workshop. Looking back on previous lessons learnt from the first phase of the project (2020-2021), Father Charles KARORERO stressed that this workshop will help us to have a better design of the new purpose based on gained experiences and field challenges failures from the first implementation of project range.



The new phase of the ongoing program will continue to receive the support of the SCCF. During the workshop, GLR Partners involve in the fight of all forms of GBV, have been introduced into other work approaches which could be used to let their work better known in other to tie new network partnership with other actors working in the same areas and domain. For example, "the Bibliothèque Sans Frontières (BSF)" platform could be used by GLR partners to find more support content to develop their strategies work and also using it to digitize their activities reports and conducted researches. They could also use the international advocacy platform of EURAC to raise voices on advocacy papers linked to GBV issues in the region.

## CDJP BUTARE HAS EMBARKED ON THE CREATION OF JUSTICE AND PEACE CLUBS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ENCOURAGING PEACEFUL COHABITATION

THE DIOCESAN JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION OF BUTARE INITIATED THE PROJECT ENTITLED: “EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES THROUGH JUSTICE AND PEACE CLUBS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF THE DIOCESE”. THE PROJECT STARTED IN 2019 WHERE IT HAS JUST REACHED TEN SCHOOLS. IN JANUARY, THE SAID PROJECT CONTINUED IN THE “INDATWA N’INKESHA SCHOOL (OFFICIAL SCHOOL GROUP OF BUTARE)”, WHERE THE JUSTICE AND PEACE CLUB WAS CREATED, MADE UP OF 26 STUDENTS AND 2 EDUCATORS FROM THIS CLUB. IN THIS SAME SCHOOL, TRAINING WAS PROVIDED WHICH FOCUSED ON: CONFERENCES, DEBATES ON PROBLEMS THAT HINDER PEACE IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE PROCESS OF PEACEBUILDING.



The creation of Peace and Justice in Schools should be seen as useful tools promoting Peacebuilding mindset among students. The students from “Indatwa n’Inkesha School (GSO – Butare)” have been trained from January to February 2022 on different methods of entertainment of Peace and Justice club at school. Those methods include short and creative activities going through: Arts, poetry, theatre, music, comic strips, displays, conference-debates, games, community work and so on. By putting in practice what they have learnt the 26 students and 2 educators, they have initiated a banana plantation project where they planted 1000 banana shoots associated with maracujas and “ibinyomoro” as part of community work aims to lately support unity and reconciliation activities.

## CDJP RUHENGELI: “THEY WORK FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN GENERATIONS, THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATION AND THE LOVE OF WORK”

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022, THE PARISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE OF THE PARISH OF RUNABA CLOSED THE WEEK OF JUSTICE AND PEACE, EDITION 2022. THE CEREMONIES COINCIDED WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE, NORMALLY CELEBRATED ON THE 1ST JANUARY. THEY BEGAN WITH A MASS OF THANKSGIVING, CELEBRATED IN THE CENTRAL CHURCH OF RUSASA AND OFFICIATED BY FATHER JEAN BOSCO MUNEZA, PARISH PRIEST AND CHAPLAIN OF THE PARISH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE.



The week of Justice and Peace was marked by various activities through the five centers of the parish. We can mention in particular the debates on the functioning of the organs of the Justice and Peace Commission, the debates on the message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace celebrated for the 55th time on January 1, 2022. The debates were led by Father Jean Bosco MUNEZA, the President of the CPJP Runaba, the parish leaders of the Justice and Peace Commission and the Coordinator of the CDJP Ruhengeri. More than 400 people, men, women and young people took part in these debates.

The main key points during the debates were linked to the message of Pope Francis on the occasion of the World Day of Peace where all debate attendees have acknowledged the importance of dialogues between adults and children in Rwandan Culture aims to prevent future misconduct and misbehavior of children and lately adult to be.

# THE MUPAKA SHAMBA LETU PROJECT ACTIVELY BUSY-SCHEDULED IN THE MONTH OF MARCH



From March 10 to 11, 2022 on the Rubavu site, the CEJP organized a training course for women small cross-border traders who are members of VSLAs (Cross-border Trade cooperative) in entrepreneurship and business skills using the CEFE model (Conference based Economy through formation). A total of 87% of women took part in this training which was co-facilitated by MUPAKA SHAMBA LETU Project Officers.

Key purpose of the training session was to identify major problems hinder women to emerge in their business trade initiatives and also to draft practicable possible solutions which could be use as guide for those women in order to enable them drawing up a flourishing and sustainable business for peace plan(B4P).

Remaining in the busy-scheduled march action of MUPAKA SHAMBA LETU PROJECT, we could also mention the organization of a cross border youth forum on March 9, 2022 at the Rubavu site. The main achieved result of the meeting bringing together 30 young people including 28 women and 2 men was to strengthen the small trade business skills of the targeted group in order to empower and motivate them to drop their fearing to fail aside and remain bold for initiative.





# MARCH 2022 ACTIONS ON SOCIAL RECONCILIATION AND REINTEGRATION OF EX- PRISONERS OF 1994 GENOCIDE PERPETRATED AGAINST TUTSIS: CDJP BUTARE AND CDJP KIBUNGO

## Happened in Butare:

On Sunday, March, 20, 2022, In collaboration with the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Butare and Magi Parish have concluded the second phase of mental healing, unity and Reconciliation of 247 pilgrims, including 192 former-genocide convicted detainees, who have been released from prison. Among participants, there was a presence of His Excellency Bishop Philip RUKAMBA of the Catholic Diocese of Butare together with the Social Welfare Officer in Gisagara District, and the Executive Secretary of Mukindo Sector, and Representative of the International Alert as well.



## Followed in Kibungo:

**“Getting out of prison didn’t really mean my release, said Kaberuka Venant, An Ex-Prisoner and Trainee on Reconciliation”**

Kaberuka Venant is one of participants in training on healing and reconciliation organized by Justice and Peace commission in Kibungo Diocese, who said course on begging pardon was a bridge to release his heart. Six months ago after training on healing and reconciliation funded by Trocaire Rwanda which brought together Genocide survivors and Genocide convicted in course of healing and reconciliation, Kibungo Peace and Justice Commission is getting more testimony on the fruit of training done last year of 2021.

Kaberuka Venant was born in 1962, married and father of 5 children, lives in Kirehe district, Kirehe sector, Nyabikokora Cell in Kwihanika Village. He admits to have played a big role in the Genocide against Tutsi in 1994. He said: "I cannot say everything about all that happened in the Genocide against Tutsi, but I want to talk about some important event according to this Genocide and after my release in prison. I especially want to talk about the role of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Kibungo (CDJP Kibungo) in terms of Unity and reconciliation of genocide convicted and Genocide survivors in healing of hearts. Returning from Tanzania in 1998 where we had taken refuge after committing Genocide, I was imprisoned for the role that I played in the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994."



Kaberuka continued: However as the Rwandan government called us accept the crime that we had committed, ask for forgiveness and tell the truth of what we did during Genocide, I was among the first to accept my crime and ask for forgiveness. This was done to reduce my sentence, which is why I am now at large. But as, getting out of prison didn't really mean my release. It was only a physical liberation but my heart still remained guilty because the forgiveness I had asked for was only superficial as it did not touch the one or those against whom I had committed the Genocide.

My testimony therefore consists in thanking the Peace and Justice commission for my true and total liberation. Indeed, after my release from prison, I did not know the reality on the outside so how to find myself with the ones or those against whom I have offended. I didn't know how I should live with them. Either way, I knew they would get revenge because what I had done to them was unforgivable to me.

I had never been quiet, my heart was always upset always wanting to escape and avoid all the opportunities that could make me cross with them, especially with Kigonda Venant with whom we live in the same village and against whom I exterminated the family during this genocide. Since leaving the training, I have found the courage and strength to return to mass to pray. The gospel of the prodigal son that the parish priest read to me comforted me and brought back to me the hope of being a child of God, when I had completely despaired.

It was already 27 years without thinking of treading the soil of the parish and entering the church. In addition, associating ourselves in a savings and loan groups with the people against who we committed the Genocide will allow us to ask for me forgiveness and possibly obtain forgiveness from them.

**To be retained from social actions of social reconciliations and social reintegration in both CDJP Butare and CDJP Kibungo:**

**Activities aimed at clapping the gesture towards the acceptance of crimes and a willingness to ask for forgiveness on the side of former-genocide convicted detainees, and appreciate the initiative of forgiveness recognition at the side of Victims of Genocide perpetrated against Tutsis, which is among the the emblems of social reconciliation and social reintegration processes.**

# COMMISSION IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF RWANDA VISITS CDJP BYUMBA

On February 9, 2022, In their field assessment visits, on the results carried out by the unity and reconciliation groups that have been created throughout the country, Senators Faustin HABINEZA and Cyprien NIYOMUGABO, members of the commission in charge of social affairs and human rights of the Parliament of Rwanda visited the group "Ntibizongerukundi" bringing together former-genocide convicted detainees and victims of Genocide perpetrated against in Muko sector, Gicumbi District and appreciated the achievements of the group in the unity and reconciliation of members as well as their socio-economic development thanks to the "Project for the psychosocial and economic rehabilitation of prisoners for their reintegration into family and community life HINDUKA UGARUKE TWIYUBAKE.

The visit intended to assess the field based Reconciliation and Reintegration activities of HINDUKA UGARUKE TWIYUBAKE project in the aftermath of 1994 Genocide perpetrated against Tutsis. The project focuses on the lessons learned and current situation in terms of reconciliation and reintegration efforts, by fostering Reconciliation and Socio-Economic Reintegration where the group "Ntibizongerukundi" focalize in psychosocial care activities, healing of wounded hearts, improving peaceful cohabitation and promoting of initiatives of reconciliation.



# CDJP CYANGUGU AT THE SERVICE OF RUSIZI AND NYAMAGABE PRISONS

Cyangugu Justice and Peace Commission in its psychosocial and economic rehabilitation of prisoners for their reintegration into family and community life has continuously supported the community and prisoners ready to serve their sentences in order to be properly integrated into the community and promote cohesion social. It is in this sense that the Justice and Peace Commission works closely with Rusizi prison for the supervision and support of prisoners.

In collaboration with the NPIA "Noyau de Paix Isoko ry'Amahoro", the Justice and Peace Commission of Cyangugu wanted to extend this support to the Nyamagabe prison housing the women. It is in this sense that, since February 2022, it has established collaborative relations with RCS "Rwanda Correction Service" with Nyamagabe prison so that women detained there can also benefit from this support in the same way as men. The assistance provided to beneficiaries focuses on equipment for learning trades and support in counseling aimed at the reconciliation process as part of preparing for their future integration into the community once released.

## ELSEWHERE IN CDJP CYANGUGU CPJP Hanika was visited.....



The theme of peace, justice and reconciliation has become a major concern for the staff cooperation project within the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission (CDJP) of Cyangugu. To meet these challenges, the CDJP Cyangugu in collaboration with the cooperation under the SCP-AGIAMONDO project has set up bodies at the level of the Parish Justice and Peace Commissions (CPJP) to properly implement peace, justice and reconciliation activities in the parishes through volunteers trained in these areas.

At the CPJP Hanika, the work of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation is done by volunteers where the planned activities are piloted by the CPJP committee at the parish, central and CEB levels. They meet once a month where they evaluate all that has been done and see together the activities that will be carried out in the future.



# CDJP KABGAYI HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SOCIAL COHESION OF REFUGEES ORGANIZED INTO SOLIDARITY GROUPS IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS

- 100 young people and women beneficiaries are trained in the management of small income-generating projects.
- 100 refugees are trained in peaceful cohabitation



- 10 financing contracts for income-generating projects were signed between the beneficiaries and the CDJP Kabgayi
- 10 self-help groups are organized.



# GRATITUDE

We want to express our deep and sincere gratitude to all our Technical and Financial Partners who assist CEJP Rwanda at the National and Diocesan level. Your assistance is of great value for the implementation of the mission of the CEJP Rwanda.



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