

BIANNUAL



REPORT

TRAUMA HEALING AND RECONCILIATION SERVICES, P.O. BOX 6311, TEL. 22245824 Bujumbura, Burundi.

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INTRODUCTION

Trauma Healing And Reconciliation Services (THARS) is a non-profit, independent and inter-faith organization founded in 2000 and registered officially in the Ministry of Home Affairs under the *Ordonnance Ministerielle* N° 530/8430 of July 8, 2002.

Mission

To contribute to the healing and peace-making in the Great Lakes Region of Africa in general and Burundi in particular, using a holistic approach which brings

people of all walks of life to psychosocial healing and resolution of differences.

Vision

We see ourselves as a group of psychosocial practitioners who are working to restore hope and health in an environment where the community will live in a healthy future. We see our work as being a facilitation for people of all works of life to build a culture of peace and harmony where mutual respect and where listening skills enable people to understand each other, have compassion for one another and care for one another; where traumatic hurt and wounds are healed, where justice prevails and where people find peaceful alterna-

tives for resolving their differences and foster reconciliation.

Goals

1. To contribute to Trauma Healing Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and in the Great Lakes Region.
2. To contribute to capacity building of children, youth, parents, teachers, community workers, religious leaders, women' organizations representatives and other members of the civil society in trauma healing and reconciliation.
3. To foster self-help initiatives and community development
4. Facilitate re-integration of vulnerable children and youth to their respective communities.

Reflecting on the Last Two Years



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New Developments at the THARS Center





We advocate memorialization as part of the healing and reconciliation processes.



HISTORY

Since 2002, THARS has implemented several projects funded by various donors and implemented in collaboration with several communities in Burundi, DR Congo and Rwanda. The projects include the following:

Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation,

supported by USAID, in three countries of Burundi, Rwanda and DR Congo, THARS worked with local organizations and empowered communities to promote peace, human rights and the psychosocial healing of the victims of the various interethnic violence.

Practicum time after an intensive training on Trauma Healing for Children



Capacity building for teachers: In partnership with Norwegian Church Aid, THARS provided capacity building to teachers and heads of primary schools to respond to issues of trauma and healing among children.



Integrated Victims of Torture (VOT)

also funded by the USAID and the EU, THARS helped victims of torture and established a database, researched the scope and impact of torture in Burundi.

Community Peace Clubs

The project was supported by Care International. Through this project THARS established Peace Clubs in 9 communes of the 3 northern provinces of Burundi. These clubs have been responsible for conflict mitigation.

Demobilized child soldiers project:

With support of UNICEF in 2007, THARS worked with demobilized child soldiers and completed both a diagnostic of their mental health and an initial psychosocial intervention. This project involved focus groups in 4 provinces.

Psychosocial Activities

implemented with support of the International Red Cross Committee. THARS initiated psychosocial activities (games, community festivals, music events) for victims of violence.

Shelter for Rape Victims:

Rape victims were helped to reintegrate back to their community. Other aspects of the project included gender-based violence and Trauma Healing. The project was supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation.



Some Street Kids beat the healing drum during play therapy at THARS Center



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Tree Planting and Protecting the environment are our interest

Over the past two years, we watched Trauma Healing And Reconciliation Services grow in a tremendous way. In providing our most needed services to the Burundi community in particular and the African Great Lakes Region in general, we felt that we achieved what we have set up as our goals.

Our organization has served not only the people we call the "clients", but the communities that have been in transition from interethnic wars to peace, reconciliation and justice processes. We believe that the positive change such as

healing, development, rehabilitation and strength of the population that we are observing are the results of the impact that our organization is making through our holistic approach.

1. We have provided professional counseling services to groups, families and individual who needed assistance.



2. We have trained **455** people including teachers, youth workers, religious leaders, women's organizations representatives in trauma healing, conflict transformation and issues of human rights.

3. We have organized **4** International conferences for trauma service providers, human

rights practitioners and conflict transformation interveners. A total of **271** attended.

4. We have produced **3000** educative/ awareness materials, tools and self help instruments, including 5000 copies of Tubirengere Newsmagazine.

5. We have successfully conducted **2** workshops on Healing of Memories Training of Trainers.

6. We have produced **5** educational and sensitizing videos on peace and reconciliation.

7. We have continued to do the lobbying to educate the public and the awareness raising on the media, including **7** radio shows on Burundi and Rwanda radios, 3000 pens distributed and 1000 tote bags handed to the communities.



Our neighbors, the TWA community, are very friendly and they make beautiful pots for sale.

8. Later in the year 2011 we added another important work to our initiative: That of Transitional Justice in an effort to support the Burundi Initiative of the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

9. THARS has been accepted as an affiliate of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation in November 2010 in Holland.



Participants at the Netherlands International Fellowship of Reconciliation 2010 Conference

10. THARS has received a partnership with THARS International 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, in October 2011, based in the USA.



Projects and Programs

Trauma Healing Training Workshop: This series of training on: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Neuro-physiology of PTSD, Spiritual Issues in Trauma Treatment, Reconciliation and Spiritual Healing, Clinician Impact and Self Care, Trauma Treatment: Methods and Techniques for Children and Adults, Programming for Community Based Interventions for Youth, was provided and funded in partnership with the Development Renovation Inc, based in Delaware, USA. The consultants included: Vickie Beam, Judy Willet, J.D. Willet, Chris Champion and Kim Champion.

Support Groups: Women who were once victims of various war related atrocities have come together to complete their healing processes through manual activities and little commerce. They do quilts, baskets, soap, tote bags, etc. The staff include: Sauvathile Niyibogora, Adelaide Nizigiyimana, Claudette Harerimana, Joseph Budenderi. Funded by Peace Through Pieces and David and Linda Kusse-Wolfe. \$15,600

Transitional Justice and Truth and Reconciliation Commission preparations: This program started in August 2011 and, as its name says, is focused on psychosocial accompaniment for the community in the Transitional Justice. GIZ gave THARS a technical assistant (EFK), Pierre Celestin Ndikumana, and funded the project's related expenditures. \$3000

Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation: This program focused on trauma healing, conflict transformation and human rights. We used our successfully adapted curriculum to conduct workshops and seminars. The community practitioners and peace activists belonging to the 10 local partners were trained to make a difference in communities of DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. We have produced a newsmagazine called *Tubirengere* with testimonies and best practices. Consultant: Jim Mustin. Funding was provided by USAID. \$532,141.

Self Help Group: An approach that empowered the poorest women to enable them realise their hidden potential. They progressively achieved economic, social and political developments that facilitated improved life conditions to their children. Staff included: Marie-Louise Nduwimana, national coordinator; Joseline Ndayishimiye, accountant; Jacqueline Niyonzima, Project Officer; Jean Bosco Sindakira, Anne Marie Nduwimana, Domithile Ninteretse, Bernadette Habona, Concilie Manirakiza and Melanie Niyonkuru, community facilitators. Funded by Kinder-nothilfe. Approx. 292,000 Euro

Interns:

Université des Grands Lacs: Nizigiyimana Glorioso, Kandatwa Florence Niyonkuru Claudette, Kwizera Larissa Niyonsenga Eliane

Hope Africa University: Shukuru Biringanine Eric, Kegode Lumadede Maxwell

Université Lumière: Ndayishimiye Pamela, Ineza Paulette

Centre de Formation et Appuie Technique au Développement: Ndikumana Marie Goreth, Ntezimana Désiré

Rescue and Reintegrate Children: A program that is rescuing and reintegrating vulnerable children and street youth and enrolling them into Community Based Trainings. The program is operational in Ngozi, Bugendana and Gitega. The staff include: Shoferi Deo and Bernardine Nindorera in Ngozi, Jean Claude Ndayisenga and Sandrine in Bugendana Claver Bigirimana and Veraste Ndagijimana in Gitega. Funded by Kinder-nothilfe. 72,863 Euro

THARS center: The center is slowly growing with near developments with an addition of 4 comfortable listening rooms, a resource room and a chapel ideal for small group retreats. Visitors have appreciated its purity of air and the growing native trees that are giving it a serene, calm, pacific and natural environment. The staff include: Claudette Niyuhire, Ruben Ntirwonza, Laurence Maniranzi, Frederic Ndacayisaba, Francoise Nizigiyimana and Mathias Kibinkanwa alias Takara. Funds were provided by Roger and Mildred Minthorne, The Netherlands Yearly Meeting of Friends and THARS International. Approx. 16,000 Euro

