

Strategic interventions in 2021-2025

Information background

Since 2016 GER-Rwanda in Partnership with CFOR, National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) and local administrations, initiated the project called ‘Beyond Conflict Rwanda’, with the aim to support the existing process of reconciliation in Rwanda. These interventions have been principally geared to exploring the intergenerational trauma transmission from genocide survivor parents to their descendants born after the 1994 genocide and its implications for reconciliation. Rwanda is a model for the world about reconciliation.

The project helped in facilitating interactions, gathered people affected by genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994, and refugees from the Eastern Kivu-DRC. Most of our interventions target survivors and perpetrators to heal, reconcile and find the way to work together to deal with the effects and strive for a shared future, by enabling environmental reconciliation at personal, family, and society level for conflict transformation and reconciliation.

The impact of this initiative is that people reconciled and united together. During the interactions, people recommended to work with the next generations (youth), who is the majority of Rwandan population, and integrated the livelihood activities to support the process and improve lives.

The experience from interactions indicate that some genocide survivor parents transmit trauma through their inability to respond to children’s needs such as supporting their education, fulfilling their basic health needs, engaging in open communication with their children, and parental affection. This situation may also arise when parents present negative emotions such as anger, fear, depression, and despair. However, we observed that the most enabling setting for parental trauma transmission to their descendants is the genocide commemoration.

1. Youth and Reconciliation

In 2021, we are working with groups of youth affected by the genocide from across six districts (Gasabo, Kicukiro, Bugesera, Rwamagana, Ruhango , Musanze, Nyabihu and Kayonza) in the projects that include trainings, facilitation, mentoring and monitoring of their community projects, documentation of success stories, lessons learnt, and dissemination of learning, with Rwanda, regional and global partners. Youth are trained to facilitate reconciliation activities and community level and in schools. There is a need to reach more youth as they agent of change and today’s leaders. We are witnessing the good results where young people have reconciled their families as the bridges of restoring broken relations, also making reparations of damaged properties.

Rwanda’s political will to reconcile is exceptional, and a model for this world of ours. Authorities have given powerful feedback to the work of GER and CFOR. They expressed deep gratitude for

the impact this work has contributed to the process of reconciliation in Rwanda, over the last few years. They also recommend expansion of such impactful works in different areas of the country.

We are facilitating interactions with young people who, among them, some face shame resulting from the role of their parents in the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, those who are born from rape during the genocide, those from survivors' families as well as marginalized groups to heal the past and break inter-generational trauma for a shared future. The project includes issues of gender; mentoring and monitoring participants' community projects; documenting their experiences; and bringing the learning from the programme into the wider society, to local authorities, national government, security, religious leaders and media.

2. Gender awareness and Reconciliation

In respect to gender awareness, Rwanda is more advanced than most countries when it comes to policy and representation of women in government. Yet – as is true everywhere – the reality of everyday life is often different than policy. Many women suffer deep-seated trauma from the widespread rape during the genocide, as well as ongoing domestic violence.

Our experience showed that issues of gender have largely been missing from processes of reconciliation, and these are the driving factors of inequalities, injustice and violence. We are dedicated to the process of exploring our own personal and professional development, to be able to work with such difficult and sensitive themes. Targeting youth is to help them to understand their responsibilities at their early age, in order to contribute towards society transformation.

3. Nature's rights awareness and climate actions

We particularly focus on the critical roles of women and local communities, and youth in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity towards the achievement of a fair and sustainable future for all. We work on the issues of improving environmental conditions, climate change and agro-ecological practices, that all respond to poverty reduction through working together, which prove relations and generate income to our beneficiaries, awareness on environmental peacebuilding and climate change.

Our interventions focus on women and girls as they encounter violations of their right to water, food security, and a clean, healthy and safe environment. These violations of basic rights occur due to unequal gender-based power relations that exist across the globe, along with multiple intersecting forms of oppression and discrimination.

Women are disproportionately affected when they are displaced from their lands as a consequence of climate change. They have an even higher risk of losing their livelihoods, their homes, and their very lives. They need alternative solutions to adapt to these impacts. We do recognize women role

in managing natural resources and mobilizing efforts to preserve access and use of these resources for themselves, their families, and broader communities.

We will support women-led community-based organizations (CBOs) that are in the best position to propose solutions and alternatives to the problems they face to claim their rights because they know the local landscape, language, culture and challenges of their constituencies, thus contributing towards ecosystem, livelihoods and sustaining peace through holistic transformation approach. We aim to also tackle environmental conflicts by engaging both men and women.

Our strategic objective is to support people to deal with the effects of violent conflicts including genocide, effects of climate change and inequalities. We target to implement these activities in community and school institutions.

We are deeply committed to develop and explore long-term project, not only expanding this work in Rwanda, but also bringing it to the region, mostly post-conflict communities. We are grateful to our partners, Authorities and beneficiaries of our interventions. GER-Rwanda is in partnership with African Biodiversity Network.

To reach our goals, we call upon different partners, organizations, development partners, foundations, and all people with good will to support this noble mission. For further information, you can reach us at: info@globalr.org / ger.globalr@gmail.com Tel: +250 783570305, +250788436774 website www.globalr.org