



Transcend Africa Network Report 2006-2007

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Presented by:

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Forward

Honourable members and supporters of the Transcend Africa Network ,
 Honourable Members of the TRANSCEND Global Network,
 Honourable President of the Study Center of Conflict Mangement in Burundi,
 Honourable UN Country Representatives, Representatives and Directors of local and International
 Organization in the Great-lakes Region,

Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen,

Fist of all, we would like to thank all of you for taking the time to support both morally and materially, the Transcend Africa Network activities in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and R.D.Congo aiming to create or reinforcing civil societies capacities to develop healthy relationship between people in the region. The idea goes back to our experience in 2004 in Trondheim/Norway. The Transcend Africa's Great-lakes project was launched February 2004 with the goal of strengthening civil society in the Great-lakes through non-violence means, and by establishing a partnership between peace builders, researcher, practitioners from the region, and the Diaspora. Gradually, this has led to the forming of an informal network including potential leaders working with conflict Transformation at the grass-root level and leadership level in Kinshasa/North-Kivu/South-Kivu (R.D.Congo), in Kigali (Rwanda), Kampala (Uganda) and Bujumbura (Burundi).

Following the launch of the Network, a field trip was organized in the region to map up the current political, human rights, peace and conflict development in the Great-Lakes region. The coordinator of the TRANSCEND AFRICA NETWORK, Raïs Boneza went on the field in the region assisted by other members of the network in the region from the 5th of January to the 10th of February 2006. The activities in the region have facilitated to define a framework for the establishment of a network of reconciliation, forgiveness, peace research and development action in the Africa.

Lately and during our visit in the region, we have reported on our experience and aspiration through the media, personal and official contacts, as well as workshops and conferences in the five mainland regions. All these trips were sponsored by Marylin Langlois co-ordinator of Transcend America based in Berkeley, and the collaboration of Carolina Mark's World Wall for Peace inspired greatly our work on the region (the Creativity in the Lion's Den): **Peace Empowerment Process equal People Empowerment Process.** (PEPs)

Letter sent to Network Members on the 04th.09.06 By Raïs Neza Boneza, Coordinator Transcend Africa Network:

From: "Raïs Neza Boneza" <rais.boneza@gmail.com>

Transcend Africa Network- World Wall For Peace- Transcend America

First Briefing on the Activities in the Great-lakes Region of Africa:

Peace Empowerment Process =People Empowerment Process

Dear friends and supporters,

I appreciate a lot your support and assistance to fulfil our project. I travelled to Uganda where I met our different members and supporters at the Kasanga community leaded by father Joseph Bbuye. I was well received and started directly the continuation of the Project with Children and Teachers. I discovered that Carolyn's Key concepts of the Peace empowerment Process was not only limited to the Children. To my surprise adults, teachers and other civil actors demanded to be part of it and have their own session.

Eventually, we started two sessions with adults and another with the Children. As after receiving your differed schedule about your arrival here; I was supposed to return back to Norway by the end of September but the community were sad and protested a little. But now, they have regained their hope as it seems I will be staying in the region until December and again with your support.

The real reason to my stay is that I discovered that the Peace Empowerment Process it equal to People Empowerment Process. Being peace practitioners, we should not limit ourselves to only preaching the gospel of peace but to be part of all that process. One of the results of the structural violence in the region is poverty. People who have previously lived in undemocratic system have been so dependant to the state that at the micro level they could not find any alternative to their misery. And the situation has resulted to much more violence.

For example in the Kampala (Uganda), Kigali (Rwanda) or Gitega (Burundi) many are the seminars held in Very costly hotels with the theme: Poverty Alleviation or Conflicts resolution. International organizations, academics, governmental and Non governmental organizations representatives are taking part in it. I am not questioning

the validity of their work. But I can sadly see that the poor victims are not invited. The irony is quite obvious: poverty is talked about and rich are getting used to debating the problem. International organization and big aid agencies do certain things and they want of course to be seen doing some serious thinking. Many of these gathering are most of the time propaganda tools with little more effective follow up. More money is poured these days as result more NGOs are arriving in the region. Government representatives like such conferences because they provide extra income. Academic delight writing papers for such gatherings because they are all paid for.

What does it profit to the victims? Is it not another kind of violence? However it is illegitimate to doubt the usefulness of such gatherings but the common trends is that the poor (victim of the structural violence) are object of concern but they are not part of the reflection and decision making.

Creative Capacity

It is in that sense that I have discovered the curative potential of the Peace Empowerment Process which equal to the People empowerment Process. Because through the creative act we need to come up with policies which caters for all people, with a serious commitment to them as whole. To create cells of solidarity with the grass-root at the local level but too at large on the regional and international level.

I believe that was the deep sense of the The 3rd Edition of the Solidarity Encounter with the Haitian People. It is an example that should be forwarded to the Great lakes region of Africa.

For example I am right now at 400 kilometres from Bujumbura the Capital of Burundi, the main catching phrase these days is: Create the right climate for investment. Schools and hospitals are sold to investors to create hotels and VIP restaurant. The new capitalistic orientation economy sees economy in term of growth. However it widening the class differentiations and decreasing solidarity among people. That means more crimes and violence as we are vowed to adopt an over-competitive

attitude where only the fittest will survive. Socialism was an economic failure because the majority of leaders failed to work for the benefit of the people and with the people. Capitalism is a "Trompe L'oeil" as it pretends that by allowing people to work for their self interest, they will automatically served the common good.

The Peace Empowerment Process/People Empowerment Process creates solidarity as "Every Creative act is Union of differences and Opposites". To create capacity to peace and development in the people we need to be committed to the people, to be with them and work with them. Solidarity means sharing people lives. In my sense that is our mission in the region. That is the reason why people decided that I am more in use here than in Norway. It is easy to exhort people to practice solidarity, to be peaceful but preaching is not enough. A local community through the 2 PEPs can do more things than those it's actually doing. In order to come to an effective community based positive development with a low percentage of structural violence, there must be building and a conscientization of the local community to desire to become a real community and to have structures which express the will of working together as one. This is the lesson, I am acquiring while working with the community by using the PEPs .

We are called to humanize our society, and as peace practitioners to moralise and preach are usually easy albeit important—but the most important investment to our project in the region should be and it is a people-based contribution. That is the sense of your next arrival in the region and my long stay here

Thanks again for your time and your dedication, I am stationed right in Burundi, waiting for Marilyn feedback so that I can proceed with the work until December. Please let me know about the outcome of the solidarity conference in Haiti. A more detailed rapport will follow up with picture and media materials

Aksanti !

Rais Neza Boneza

www.transcendafrika.net

We conducted initial workshops, introducing the Transcend method of Dr. Johan Galtung in Conflicts Transformation. Having experienced great success in establishing a regional platform of people working for social change, we came up with an idea to gather more inputs and consultations within community members.

The Transcend Africa Network has reached by now over 150 members in the Great-lakes Region, and hopes to share with you our action plans, which we hope you'll join in supporting, facilitating more collaboration toward Peace and Civil society reinforcement .

The TAN has worked to increase the effectiveness of communities and individuals towards positive social change through further developing their skills. TAN vision is to empower communities to reach social change within their communities through action plans for a positive, equitable and sustainable EAST Africa nations, as well as, addressing youth participation in decision-making and working for social development in the communities. TAN is a network that deals with various issues facing communities such as all sort Violence embodied in War, Poverty and Hunger, and issues such HIV/AIDS, Environment, Health, Unemployment, Education, Culture, Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals.

The Objectives of TAN are to;

- (1) Promote reconciliation initiative to heal the wounds in our societies
- (2) Promote education and training to provide communities with the creativity and skill to transform conflicts and violence into peaceful cohabitation.
- (3) Cooperate with other organizations.
- (4) Increase the effectiveness of existing youth groups by providing technical support, and links to other organizations.
- (5) Promote Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the rights of young men and women to participate in decision-making, and enjoy access to timely and appropriate information.

The Transcend Africa Network will work through its Action Partners countrywide with the support of local and international organizations to bring change through development process forums and action plans. Every member will be responsible for action plans in his or her community.

TAN Headquarters in the Great Lakes region is located in Bujumbura/Burundi under the umbrella of as SCCM (Centre for the Study of Conflict Management). Our on-sites in the Region are as followed:

- SCCM/Burundi (Study Centre of Conflict Management): President **Eric SHIMA**. (Transcend Africa Network Headquarter.)
- CEPROMECS-IGM/Burundi-Rwanda-DR Congo (Institut supérieur de gestion et management/Gestion and Mangement Institut): **Prof. Michel Mbonekuba, Administrator-President**
- Project Uplift /Uganda-Kampala : **Brother Robert Martineau** of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart
- Kasanga Catholic Parish / Uganda- Kampala: **Father Joseph Bbuye**.
- Chirezi Foundation/Kiliba DR Congo: **Floribert Kazigunfu**, Co-ordinator

- MJA/ Uvira-East DR Congo (mutuelle Jeunesse Active): **Mazombo Menga Rodolphe**, President

TAN works to make sure that communities have access to informations, seminars, conferences, internships and courses needed to develop their skills and make them more effective in decision making, and help gain access to social services.

We appeal for your support, moral, material and financial to make TAN the reality. We have attached our project implementation proposal, which covered one year's action plan. We kindly welcome your organizations to work closely with us.

I. Introduction

Among many characteristics, the 20th century has been identified as a violent century. Violence has been institutionalized at the point of ignoring the non-killing values in our nature, culture, art and human heritage. Killings and violence have dominated our debates, education, entertainments, sports and daily living.

A sport without violence becomes boring; a movie without killing interests any body, a society without killing becomes impossible, political career without killing remains unimaginable...

Our streets are affected, our schools are invaded, our churches are contaminated, Newspapers, television and advertisements nurture violence and killing, our spirit and souls are totally intoxicated, people mind is militarized and the world counts its deaths day by day ...

Since, the World has been overwhelmed by this terrible tragedy. People do not hesitate to view it as the origin of a « third world war » if it has not yet started. This is what we have inherited from the 20th Century.

Although while killing and violence continue their course all over the five continents, the **great lakes region of Africa** is among the most volatile area because of endemic wars, ethnic upheavals, poverty, arms proliferation.

While prospects for peace in the Great Lakes region are promising, the region's 127 million people are struggling to cope with raging instability, repeated and continued displacement, drought and disease... people are not feeling political gains or life improvements in their daily lives: the region is home to some 5 million of the world's 25 million internally displaced persons.

- Most live in camps
- Camps are congested and unhygienic
- Camps lack basic services.
- Armed attacks on these camps are frequent.

In Burundi, for example, the consequences of the long-running crisis in the country can be observe as follow:

- Thousands of children have been forcefully recruited, abducted, and turned into killers. Children have been primary victims of the situation
- Women and girls were particularly vulnerable in the country region where simple daily chores of food preparation or gardening can imperil their lives, and expose them risk of sexual violence.
- Rape increasingly was used as a weapon of war, to torture and subjugate women and tear apart families.

The wars that broke out in the Great lakes region since 1994 have been the root of all evil in the region:

- All people in the region suffer the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. It is thought to have one of the highest prevalence rates in Africa. In Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, there are more than 4 million persons living with HIV AIDS and 3,120,000 AIDS orphans.
- Transmission of HIV/AIDS increases dramatically in conflict and violence situations.
- Children have been taught to kill, the future generation is trained to kill
- Poverty and human rights abuses increase
- Violent ways are envisaged to solve problems
- Violence is promoted to accede to power

In regard of the situations described above, a non-killing prospective is necessary. We need to plant new seeds of peace and reconciliation in the heart of the people especially for future generations.

II. Baraza: Promoting Dialogue (follow-up project from 2005)



While the Great Lakes region seems to pass through a period of relative peace, with the peace dialogue effort initiated by the Government of Uganda and the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) of Joseph Kony in South Sudan, the ongoing talk between the Government of Burundi and the Front of National Liberation (FNL); the last armed group fighting in Burundi and the first Democratically elected government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

People around are longing for peace and development. it was in that perspective that in

Collaboration with FOCHI Foundation a grassroots organization in the region, we have settled sub-structures called BARAZA (a Kiswahili word meaning Gathering) to unite grassroots people initiatives in the region with the objective to strengthen and empower common effort for peace and development.

Nowadays we have implemented in full time 7 Baraza among the communities throughout the region. The structures are located as follow: Uvira, Bukavu, Kiliba

(Eastern Congo), Bujumbura (Burundi), Kampala (Uganda), Kigali (Rwanda) and one soon open in Kapochrwa near the border of Kenya and Uganda.



The Baraza would have not been successful without the support of TRANSCEND America through Marilyn Langlois who has made a lot of effort to facilitate the different seminars. Also reading material provided by Carolyn Mark founder of the World Wall for Peace has contributed a lot in the Peace Empowerment Process.

In September 2006 at Farm of Hope, a school run by the CHIREZI Foundation in the Region of Kiliba at 10 kilometre over the border of

Burundi, local leaders and actors were united for a two day Baraza on the theme: “Non-violence the possible impossibility”, all the Participants seemed to sense the extraordinary character of the encounter, it was in fact one of the rare time when people from different ethnical volatile had a meeting, talking to the people during the breaks it was not difficult to realise that every participants have experienced the stigmata of war and were looking forward to make peace and find new alternative for a peaceful cohabitation.



As for the roots of violence in their community, they did not close their eyes on certain aspects of local cultures, which praise bravery over enemies. They felt however, the need to add that recent development in the society such as easy access to fire arms, nepotism, greediness, insecurity about the future, clash of generation etc...

The various group sessions were introduced by personal and short prayers and brief reflection on different holy passage (Muslim and Christian); this helped the participants to go through the two days Baraza with a sense of togetherness and fraternity. If peace was the catch word of the Baraza and the dream of all participants, violence was considered as it worst enemy. Baraza meetings were considered unanimously as one of the mean to attain it goal.

III. Baraza-Dialogue Follow up project 2006-2007: Peace empowerment process/People empowerment Process (PEPs)

- **VISION:** Promoting a culture of Peace and Reconciliation in Great Lakes Region
- **Direct Beneficiary states:** Burundi, Rwanda, R.D.Congo, and Uganda
- **Indirect Beneficiary States:** Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia
- **Time Period:** July 2006 - January 2007
- **Project Initiator:** Transcend Africa Network www.transcendafrika.net

- **Main Project supporter:** Marilyn Langlois (TRANSCEND America)/California-Berkeley (US).
- **Other Supporters:** WWFP Carolyn Banks (US), IDEAL international (France)
- **Total of Cost the Project: 9140 USD**



The Baraza – Dialogue Follow up Project is a relevant continuation of the project initiated in 2005-2006 in Kampala/Uganda. We gathered in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and DRC from July 2006 to January 2007 and had a final meeting/training in Kampala – Uganda later in December 2006. The aim of the project was to empower communities leader with main tools of Peace and Conflict Transformation with a special emphasize of Local Methods of Conflict Transformations. Later we explored other aspects of a culture of life construction in the region contrary to the culture of death.

Carolyna Marks Creative Lion's Den book which was earlier mostly used for the Peace empowerment Process with special emphasise to youth students, were adapted for a diverse and group of adult persons. The re-adaptation of Creative Lion's Den brought to conclude that the **Peace Empowerment Process** is equivalent to the **People Empowerment Process (PEPs)**.

The PEPs TRENDS:

Africa has the ingredients for both cultural peace and violence. In identifying both these two characteristics, Therefore it is possible to create an environment of **Amani** (Peace), **Salama** (sereinity, harmony), and **Maisha** (Life) embedded in the African concept of **Ubuntu**. Ubuntu ideas promote and sustain human and institutional capacity-building in the field of culture and socio-economic development. It is intended to strengthen cross-cultural understanding and international co-operation fulfilling then the humanistic message of the late President of Senegal L.S.Senghor stated: "Le rendez-vous du donnee et du recevoir", the meeting of giving and receiving between civilizations when thinking in a global context.

The PEPs aims key issues facing the people of the Great Lakes region (Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya, Congo-Kinshasa), namely peace, co-operation and regional integration. The objectives are:

- a) to try to go beyond the mainstream violence and conflict analysis revitalizing the society potentiality to true leadership involving a process of collaboration between resource individuals (young, men and women from both side of the borders in the region) in the living in the Great Lake homelands.
- b) To advance multi-disciplinary project into the conditions of peace and non-violence with the aim of assuring a future more secure for coming generation the region.
- c) To empower reconciliation processes and restorative justice approaches and methods restoration in practice in Sub-Saharan Africa.

- d) Developing a framework for the establishment of a network of reconciliation and forgiveness action in the Africa based in consultation, seminars with relevant parties. It will outline Transcend relevant approach of research in resolving the sub-Saharan conflicts and post-conflict issues such the 3'R as RECONSTRUCTION, RECONCILIATION, and RESOLUTION.
- e) To develop LPA's (Learning Participatory Approach), for local development in the societies
- f) A project aims at developing an indigenous African peace resource involved in peace building and conflict resolution training, both at grassroots and political leadership levels. This involves empowering local peace-building capacity through giving training to people living in conflict areas who are interested in developing their peace-building skills relevant to their respective communities using non- violent methods. Greater responsibility will be placed on individuals and society as a whole to "handle conflicts with creativity, non-violence, and empathy." Therefore, this vision implies that peace is not dependent on the absence of conflict, but rather on how the conflict is resolved. Considering that, conflicts seem to be a part of human nature, defining peace this way makes peace achievable.

These African methods (ATM's) are relevant in bringing healing to the Great-lakes society illness such violence or poverty. The challenge is to bring people together, to reconcile, reconstruct, resolve their differences creatively using the peaceful means that empower non-violence mean through a local or indigenous peace resources. Trough that, we could achieve a conscious African Unity that could bring us to a meeting of Giving and Receiving with other civilization.

IV. Transcend Africa Network to empower minority and defenceless communities: The Twa people cases

Beneficiary: Twa People

Cost: 700 USD



The Twa People known as pygmies are human subpopulations in which an average adult stature of less than 152 cm (60 in) is an inherited trait. Pygmies live in the tropical forests in central Africa, Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi. They mostly groups maintain their traditional way of life based on hunting and gathering, while some have started to follow a settled agricultural existence. Most often, Pygmies speak the language of their neighbours as Kirundi or Kinyarwanda (Burundi or Rwanda).

In Africa, —they are estimated at 150,000 to 300,000— are believed to have lived in the Congo Valley before the arrival of other peoples. The best-known ethnic group, the Mbuti or Bambuti, are the shortest of all human populations,

averaging about 130 cm (51 in) in height.

After the Two day Baraza, we visited 3 different communities of Batwa (pygmies) at Muturale – Territory of Uvira, forty kilometres from Uvira and at Kalehe eighty kilometre of Bukavu Eastern Congo. It should be notice that this minority are one perpetually victimized by other community and even during the war, they are the only people for which their plight never counted or being heard. We decided to bring the Baraza in this community to facilitate the building of a Bridge between then and other community.



With the partnership foundation TRANSCEND America /Transcend Africa Network; we have concluded that special support should be directed to this community. We raised 700 US with the help of Marilyn Langlois (Transcend USA) for the construction a Well in their village as water is the main source of conflict between the Batwa and the neighbouring communities. The work went successfully and we are waiting for the follow up. Besides we taught about recruiting Twa's children for school

The school was primarily for Orphans and demobilised Child soldiers, it is one of the rare schools which have started already with a special course on Peace empowerment Process designed from Carolyn Banks work the lion's den. It is situated at Kiliba 10 kilometres of the Burundian border. It has six classroom and 8 staff s. However, there is a lack of proper building and daily foods for the children due to limited funds. With only 10 Dollars a months it possible to feed and cloth one kid and support the staff salary. We are looking for 3000 USD a year to run the school and build adequate facilities for Children.



Conclusion:

In the long and complicated process of the alleviation of victims suffering from violent conflicts and repression; reconciliation is the pivotal element. The task of reconstruction and the restoration of a community spirit depend on reconciliation. That is the reason why Transcend Africa Network/CHIREZI Foundation works to settle BARAZA structures of peace throughout the region to imperatively develop a culture of dialogue and reconciliation. Reconciliation and dialogue implies justice, it requires strategy both rooted in spirituality. That is why in BARAZA's aesthetic but holistic aspect of reconciliation is explored with an effort to offer hope for the restoration of a damaged humanity and a possibility of a new society.

V. Transcend Africa Network Partnerships in the region (On-sites):

A. SCCM (STUDY CENTRE FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT)

The SCCM is the first non-profit organization dealing with conflict resolution in Burundi. It is run by practically a group of professional peace practitioners and activists on a free will basis. It is part of the Transcend Africa Network and the main regional office or representative of the network. It is based in Bujumbura capital of the republic of Burundi.

A.1. SCCM Activities under the Transcend Africa Network PEP/PEP project

Public conference on the TRANSCEND Method: 15th November 2006

Figure 1 third from the left Raïs Boneza after being awarded an honorary Doctorate degree (Honoris Causae) By the Institute of Management (ISGM) and the University of CEPROMECE in Burundi.

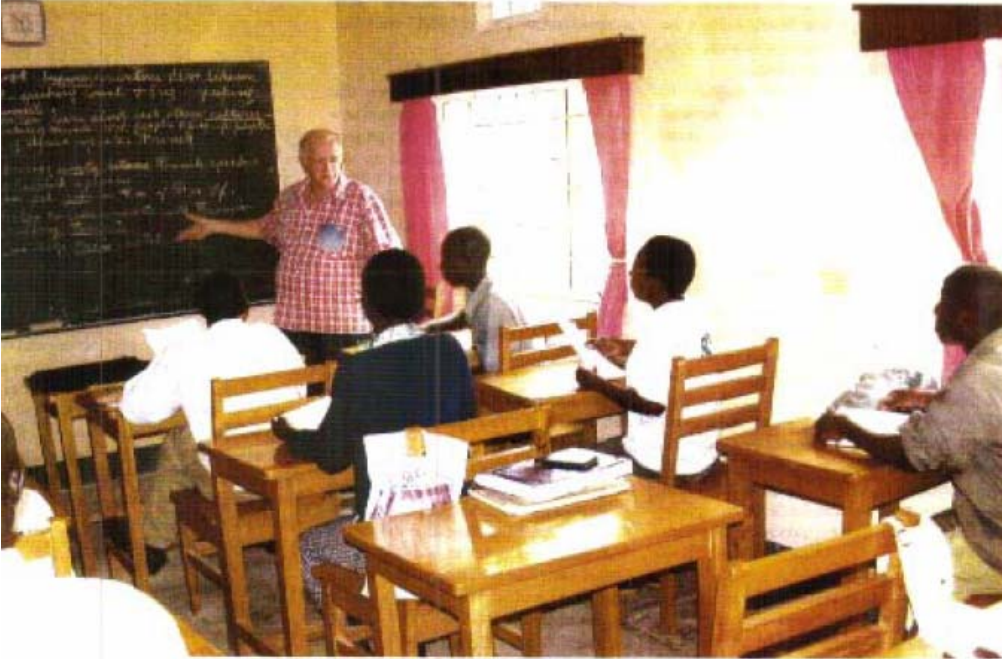


While professionalizing of Peace making and building is a wide undertaking and Burundian peace practitioners as well as activists from the other countries in the region are in great need to acquire more knowledge and techniques about peace and conflicts Transformation. Of course there are few professional in the field of peace as few academics structures have included peace sciences as a practical as any scientific field.

To professionalise the civil society is among the primary objectives of the Transcend Africa Network through its representation SCCM in Burundi but at large in the Great-lakes region. In perspective then we organized a public conference on the TRANSCEND Method in Conflict Transformation with the aim of Professionalizing the Grassroots movement into the field of peace and conflict Transformation. The conference was presented by Raïs Neza Boneza Director of the Transcend Africa Network and author, newly awarded “Doctor Honoris Causae” by the University of CEPROMECE/ISGM in Burundi. Among the invited were for a range of NGOs, Media, Political Parties and Former Burundian Head of states.

B. Project Uplift / Uganda- Kampala by Br. Robert Martineau/Brothers of the sacred heart

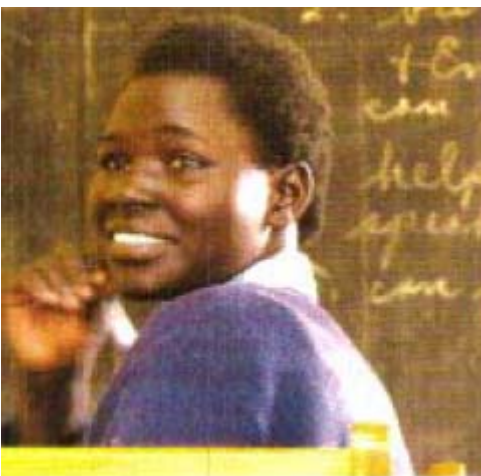
Nature of Project Uplift



Students of Uplift Project in class

Project Uplift is an educational facility that offers free-of-charge junior secondary education (O Levels) to the disenfranchised youth of our area. The Transcend Africa Network is collaborating with the project to develop a curriculum of Peace Study for Secondary School. The Project Leader Brother Robert Martineau who comes to Uganda in 1996 to help re-found the congregation of Brothers of the Sacred Heart; He is a teacher English languages and religion. Project Uplift counts seven qualified teachers all teaching for free. Most of the students have experienced different hard life conditions as they are poor and many were street children. The Collaboration Uplift Project - Transcend Africa Network have come to boost the creative potential of these young men and women to believe in themselves, in life, and peace. This collaboration could not have been possible without the support and inspiration of Carolyn's World Wall for Peace, a non profit organization based in California-Berkeley dedicated to promote peace and creativity in the world.

Economic Condition of the Youth being served by Project Uplift



A student of Uplift Project in class

At St. James Catholic Church, Kampala, there are many young teen-age boys and girls who are parentless because of AIDS. Many, especially the boys, have no one to support them, and they have to find any small job in order to rent small dingy rooms and buy the essential food to sometimes just barely live. Many others come to Kampala from the northern part of Uganda seeking work and education to evade the rebel activities that still

exist (in spite of the current “peace talks”). Their hopes are shattered—they find no significant work and no relative able to support them in the education they seek.

Motivated by the need to help these disenfranchised youths, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart started “Project Uplift”. We teach the poor of the area, mainly from our parish, free-of-charge and are aided by our candidates and six fully qualified teachers who also give of their services, receiving no salary whatsoever.

The only criterion for selection is poverty. Though difficult, we try to find out if those young people applying to study in our project are truly in financial need—having no one to pay for their school fees. At present we have full enrolment: 20 students in our Senior One and Two classes, and 20 students in our Senior Three class. We have about an equal number of boys and girls. Most of our students are from various religion denominations.

A Break-down of Present Services Contributed by the Local Community and others

O Level Education

1. Classrooms and electricity (given by the local parish: St. James)
2. The free services of eight qualified teachers, both lay and religious
3. 20 desks, chairs, teacher’s table, and locker paid for by a dentist, Mrs. Tanzi, from the United States.
4. The reams of paper, exercise books, chalk, photocopying, and other educational material paid for by the Brothers
5. Examination fees at the end of the year for our school-leavers who sit for their final government examinations: 1,900,000 Ugandan Shillings (U.S.1,117.65) paid for by the Brothers (based on 20 students)
6. The occasional medical needs of our students

Transcend Africa Network in Project Uplift: Peace empowerment Process/People Empowerment Process (PEP/PEP).



Students of Uplift Project during a discussion session at their centre

Testimonies from of the Students Uplift-Project who where part of the Transcend Africa Network (PEP+PEP=PEPs):

Abong Juluis one, of the Pioneers sitting this year said: “I had dropped out of school the third year of secondary school way back in 2002 when my father weakened by sleepiness sickness and could not work anymore, today I have been given the opportunity for a future and

Peace Empowerment Process has shown me that everything is possible, I could still success without engaging my self in criminal activities.”

When **Simon Peter's** sister in-law objected to him living with them, he and his young sister had no choice but to walk out the house, carrying nothing. A friend of theirs let them sleep at night after shows in a corner of the video hall, he was running carpet. The Uplift project took them and they have got a dwelling and Simon make and sell Chapati (Bread), to sustain him and his little sister. He is part of the Peace Empowerment Process and People Empowerment (PEP=PEP)

Apio Jennifer 16 now prepares for her graduation examination at the project. She is from Layibi in the North Uganda. When the father was killed in an armed insurgency, her grandmother took her in and her sister paid for her education until she was herself killed in an ambush at kitgum-Gulu road. She is now given a new chance by the project.

It is not enough to teach only mathematics and other sciences, it is important to give possibility to these young people to discover or explore their potentiality and creativity. The youth are the largest part of the population in the great lakes region and are the future of the region. Youth are dynamic, curious and ambitious to engage with many processes, as a result, sometimes they find themselves manipulated and marginalised. Therefore, we are looking forward to the coming visit of Carolyn Bank (WWFP), and other Transcend Members to help strengthen the foundation already build in the region.

C. Univesite du CEPROME / ISGM (Institut Superieur de Gestion et Management; High School of Management)

C.1 Introduction to Peace Study: Transcend Method . 3 weeks. November 06

From right: Dr.hc Raïs Boneza, Prof. Michael Nbonekuba, Ass.Prof. Mugaruka.



The University of CEPROME and ISGM are community institutions based in respectively four countries: DR Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania. They have added Peace Study and Conflict Transformation on their curriculum with special emphasize on the TRANSCEND Method of Prof. Johan Galtung.

The first introduction to Peace Studies and conflict Transformation was taught during the month of November 06 to first and second year Master students. At the end of

the course the 157 participants to the course received certificate of participation in addition to their usual grades.

In the middle of December, the institution requested to introduce a seminar course on Gender balance and development which was given for a week.

The impact of the course to the institution and specially the student was typically positive as it was the first time that they were introduced to PEACE STUDY.

C.2. Direct Outcome:

1. The students have developed a critical understanding about the conflict situation in the Great Lakes region and creatively have developed strategies.
2. They have acquired healing skills based in non-violence and creative conflict transformation.
3. They have established a peace network, this will facilitate high level of interaction and participation in diverse activities of common interests.
4. Dialogue groups have been introduced in the institutions of learning. These groups are promoting promote dialogue at grassroots.
5. The institution is now creating a department of Peace and Conflict Transformation. It will subdivided it course in two section : The Long Distance Learning to cover the wall region and the on-site courses on it different campus.

N.B: Courses and Training were provided freely

VI. Far and nearer realizations since Transcend Africa Network is operational in the Great-Lakes region.

1. We have developed research and study projects with the aim of consolidating peace in the Great-Lakes region.
2. A network of Dialogue with the aim of increasing the capacity of civil society and governments to serve professionally the MDO (Millennium Development Objectives).
3. The Greatest achievement is the agreement of peace and stability signed on the 15 December 2006 in Nairobi , Kenya by Head of States of the Region. The SCCM has work and invest a lot resource in the realization of this regional agreement that paved the road to peace and collaboration in the region.
4. We are in Process of creating an institute of Peace and conflict Transformation to realize our ambitions and introduce new techniques such the “TRANSCEND Method” of Already introduced in the region by TRANSCEND members.
5. The Creation of the Faculty of Peace Studies and Conflicts Transformation by the Université du CEPROME/ISGM

VII. CHALLENGES FACING Transcend Africa Network

VII.1. Information Gap:

- It is difficult to reach some of our partners on the field such those in far Eastern-Congo, North of Uganda as most of the communication structures are not well developed. We think about providing to each remote on-site a mobile phone for communication.

VII.2. Security

- Although peace and stability are improving in the region, but some areas still volatile. This renders sensitization of the general public at the Grass-root level difficult.
- Inaccessibility to some areas

VII.2. Funding

- inadequate funds and Logistics for the implementation of Transcend Africa Network promotional activities such capacity building, publicity and transport to access target groups or communities.
- Most on-site partners currently available are not well equipped to meet the expectation of our implemented projects
- Inadequate funding has made for example difficult to put in place professional mechanism for handling volunteers who mostly come with different project proposals.
- There has been limited production and dissemination of guidelines for co-ordination and implementation because of limited resources

VIII. FUNDING of the Transcend Africa Network activities

We come again to thank again Marilyn Langlois of TRANSCEND America for her effort to raise funds worth to achieve our fixed objectives and oversee our next step which is to make Transcend Africa Network a permanent community based NGO dedicated specially to peace building and conflicts transformation.

VIII.2.3. Wheel construction Project for the Twa People: 700 USDollars

VIII.2.4. Activities expenses: Introduction sur la Non-violence et la transformation pacifique de Conflits

	Expenses	Responsible	Number	Cost per Unit	Cost in US \$
1	Invitations	Secretary	100	0.2 US	0 020 US \$
2	Rent a venue	Administrator	1	100 US	0 100 US \$
3	Print the summarized book	Secretary	250	2 US	0 500 US \$
4	Transport of the teachers	Administrator	100	5 US x 3 days	1 500 US \$
5	Soft drink for participants	Administrator	100	0.5 x 3 days	0 150 US \$
6	Food for participants	Administrator	100	10 Us x3 days	3 000 US \$
7	Copy books, papers, pen	Idem			0 150 US \$
8	Certificates	Coordinator			0 100 US \$
9	Filming and video broadcasting				0 200 US \$
	Total				5750 US \$

Conclusion: Therapy or Final Proposal and recommendation from Transcend Africa Network members and Participants in Region

Any solution must be transparent, and implicate affected populations. The Secret negotiation among elite actors is unlikely to eliminate the structural factors or latent causes of conflicts. The negotiations must recognise all concerned actors at all level, ethnical group, armed group, civil servants, businessmen and other members of civil society.

As the violence as destroyed potentiality of trust and truth among people at all level, it is therefore relevant to implement a mechanism of **reconstruction**. The reconstruction dynamic will lead to recall of the potential of culture of peace, which can be use for the **reconciliation process**. The reconciliation process can be even more effective through using endogenous or cultural conflict **resolution** practices such: Gacaca (Rwanda), Ubuntu (South Africa), Kogtla (Kalaharian). E.g. the *ubashingantahe system in traditional Burundi*, which mixed groups of mature, respected Hutus and Tutsis adjudicated disputes a local levels to address certain problems of land reform and reduce the conflict producing discursive practices.

Another alternative will be to develop a mechanism of regional integration. The region is a receptacle of rebel funds and arms that affect the stability of the region. This fragile network of alliances demands inclusive negotiations based on the needs of the entire region. Political Instability within Congo, The return or a fair integration of refugees, redefinition of nation, states, and reform of laws on nationality must be considered regionally. Regional organization such the CPGL (the commission for the Great-Lakes Region) could implement structures with a locally based ideal such as the Baraza (Kiswahili word of “Assembly”) or the Nyerere’s Tanzanian ideal “Ujaama” (Kiswahili word of “Familyhood”) that are more easily assimilated by local population.