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RWANDA



## **USAID Dufatanye URUMURI (Light) Activity**

**Annual Report (FY23)**

**October 2022-September 2023**

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

ADEPR	: Association des Eglises de Pentecote du Rwanda
ARCT-RUHUKA	: Association Rwandaise des Conseillers en Traumatisme (Recently changed to Rwanda Organization of Trauma Counsellors)
AVEGA	: Association des Veuves du Genocide Agahozo
CDJP	: Commission Diocésain Justice et Paix
CF	: Community Facilitator
CSOs	: Civil Society Organizations
EAR	: Eglise Anglican du Rwanda
EX-FAR	: Ex-Force Armée Rwandaise
FBO	: Faith Based Organization
FGD	: Focus Group Discussion
FRW	: Franc Rwandais
FY22	: Fiscal Year 22
FY23	: Fiscal Year 23
FY24	: Fiscal Year 24
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
JADF	: Joint Action Development Forum
MEL	: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MHPSS	: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services
MINALOC	: Ministry of Local Government
MININTER	: Ministry of Internal Security
MINUBUMWE	: Ministry of Unity and Civic Engagement
MoU	: Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
NST	: National Strategy for Transformation

PIR : Project Intermediary Result  
RCS : Rwanda Correction services  
RNP : Rwanda National Police  
USAID : Unite States Agency for International Development  
USG : United State Government  
VLSA : Village Saving and Loans Associations

## Executive summary

International Alert and ARCT-Ruhuka, have been, for the last three years implementing USAID Dufatanye Urumuri (Light) Activity. This project seeks to improving social cohesion by strengthening the inclusive unity and resilience processes in Rwanda. The activity operates in 30 districts, 2 sectors each and employs International Alert's holistic approach to foster people-centered unity, resilience, and social cohesion. This approach labeled three-tier approach, combines psychosocial support, inclusive dialogue, and joint bridge-building economic initiatives and selfless services, specifically targeting key groups most impacted by the genocide against Tutsi.

The following is the progress achieved for the reporting period of October 2022 – September 2023.

### Key achievements:

**Expanded opportunities to propel unity and resilience process:** Geographically, the project extended its activities from 30 to 60 sectors, growing its physical presence from 5 to 10 district offices. 270 more facilitators, including 120 schoolteachers and 150 community facilitators were identified and equipped with skills and knowledge to reach out project target communities with improved support. As result, 374 Urumuri therapy groups and 259 Urumuri forums were created to offer psychosocial support services and nurture harmonious relationships respectively. Urumuri therapy groups are meant to offer safe spaces where genocide affected people can overcome their haunting memories from experienced heinous acts of their neighbors; and forums allow participant to engage into dialogues on challenges and contemporary issues affecting unity and resilience and build self-efficacy to relate well with their historical past.

**Enhanced self-efficacy among project participants to impact positive changes in community:** The project data revealed a high self-efficacy percentage of 88.95% among project participants versus 66% baseline. This underscores the transformative capacity of community healing spaces (therapy groups and forums) to empower genocide affected people in nurturing their capabilities to resist negative influence on any form of division or discrimination while instilling attitudes towards peaceful conflict resolution approaches.

**Decrease of traumatic symptoms:** The MHPSS assessment shows a noteworthy increase of the number of participants who reported the decrease of instances of trauma symptoms to the average of 83.7% from 72.6% previously achieved (FY22) to 83.7% (FY23) which led to the increase 17.9% compared to the baseline data (65.8%). As a result, this change has had a multiplier effect to pave the way for relationship building as evidenced by 95.8 % (from 81% baseline) of participants who reported positive inter-group interactions expressed through active collaboration. This is also explained by notable increase of 26.3% (from 43% baseline to

69.3%) of participants with readiness to share sensitive stories. One of key responsible factors to this change as analysed by the project is the empathetic environment which allow participants to lower their guards and express their emotional vulnerabilities and feelings with hope to be heard.

**Enhanced psychosocial resilience:** The coping mechanism of Urumuri participants has improved as shown by the increased number of participants (65.9% from 47% baseline) who reported having got capacities to cope with their trauma and associated social effects. Evidence to this are notable cooperation among participants through joint activities and mutual support; thereby, responding simultaneously to livelihood and emotional well-being needs with effects to nurturing sustainable peace and resilience.

**Trusting the other:** Trust among project participants from different historical background identity groups has significantly increased from 44% to 55.4%. Key drivers of this change as noted by the project include frequency of interactions, well equipped facilitators, and bridge building initiatives performed by group members with aim to support vulnerable people among them regardless their former ethnic background.

**Improved Role of Faith-Based Organizations:** Trained leaders of faith-based organizations have begun to utilize acquired skills to promote unity and social cohesion, particularly targeting critical categories such as released ex-genocide prisoners. For example, the Peace and Justice Commission (CDJP) of the Butare Catholic Diocese organized inauguration/celebration of reconciliation events for 456 ex-genocide perpetrators alongside survivors, aiding them in their psychosocial reintegration journey. This number led to total of 577 reconciled people from 121 directly achieved by the project.

**Strengthened social cohesion through bridge building initiatives:** This year, the project recorded 317 initiatives out of 150 targets including 175 selfless activities and 142 saving initiatives (VSLAs) with over FRW 20 million savings. These initiatives not only respond to the needs of social economic wellbeing of project participants, but they also contribute to peacebuilding outcomes. In fact, frequent meetings and contact allow participants to rehumanize each other and nurture their social cohesion and trust.

**Laid foundational structures to improve social reintegration of convicts of crimes committed during the genocide against Tutsi:** In partnership with MINUBUMWE, guidelines for social healing, social cohesion and social reintegration were developed to support actors in the domain. These guidelines provide guidance and clarity on the minimum package that should be provided to beneficiaries. Furthermore, a working group of partners working on reintegration of genocide prisoners was established comprising government institutions and organizations (CSOs) that have implemented prisoners' reintegration programs, and a draft program document to guide these actors is under preparation for validation in FY24.

## Context analysis

In the field of unity, resilience, and social cohesion, we have identified the following challenges that need to be taken into account in the interventions of peace-building actors, including civil society organizations, state institutions and donors:

- We note that there are still pockets of divisionism in the country, where for example in one locality you see groups forming by identity affinities to form, for instance, prosperous but non-inclusive economic units. This highlights the fact that, despite peaceful coexistence, divisions still exist and need to be addressed. It reflects the extent of trauma carried by citizens and the significant risk of passing these divisions on to younger generations. During our community engagement, questions were raised regarding the removal of "reconciliation" from the official narrative, despite evidence suggesting that there is still a long journey ahead. MINUBUMWE clarified that reconciliation remains a national priority; though considering that 65% of the population is under 30 and has not experienced the genocide, hence no one to reconcile with. The term "resilience" is therefore more inclusive and encompasses the efforts of both peace and development actors.
- Over the next five years, 2,000 to 2,500 genocide perpetrators prisoners will be released each year (around 8,800 to be released by 2027). While this number is not significantly different from previous years, these prisoners are among those who have committed the most serious crimes and have neither shown any remorse nor reconciled with the survivors, thus requiring special attention. This means that steps towards strengthening reintegration mechanisms and preparing the families and communities into which they will be reintegrated are needed. Additionally, establishing systems to monitor conflict and recidivism is crucial.

Further to this local context, the regional security situation, particularly the ongoing tensions between Rwanda and the DRC on the other side of the border, are taking on ethnic dimensions that could spill over to this side. We are therefore urgently called upon to set up warning and monitoring systems, as well as to align our actions with initiatives that target cross border populations.



## Progress against FY23 planned activities.

This annual report covers the period from October 2022 to September 2023 and presents information on implementation progress by Urumuri project against annual (FY23) planned activities as recorded in different reports and the findings of the MHPSS assessment<sup>1</sup>. Since the project has got a modification award, reported information included also activities implemented in new sectors of intervention and activities implemented under the partnership framework with the Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement (MINUBUMWE).

The report indicates also intermediary results on each of the specific objective and project outcomes. Information about monitoring activities, lessons, challenges and how the project addressed them and opportunities to facilitate the attainment of the project goal are also presented and discussed in this report. Finally, the report ends by recommending areas of improvements in the project implementation.

### Project intermediary results under specific objective

The overall goal of Urumuri project is to improve social cohesion by strengthening inclusive unity and resilience process in Rwanda. To achieve this, the project specifically seeks to improve unity, resilience, and social cohesion efforts through healing of historical wounds and facilitation of open and inclusive dialogue on contemporary sensitive issues in the project target communities. The following are key achievements and progress made against annual specific objective indicators.

#### ***Self-efficacy among project participants to impact positive changes in community.***

Under USAID Urumuri (Light) Activity, self-efficacy refers to the belief in one's capabilities to organize and execute the courses of action required to manage prospective situations and capability to resist negative influence, or attitudes towards peaceful conflict resolution approaches. The findings of the project revealed promising data for Urumuri participants, both females and males displaying a high self-efficacy percentage of 89.3% and 88.6% respectively, resulting in an overall percentage of 88.95% against 66% baseline and 75% annual target.

Evidence to this is the level of willingness and comfort that Urumuri participants show participating in joint initiatives as project group members to respond to the needs of their fellow group members and/or address challenges and issues they face in their daily life. These

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<sup>1</sup> International Alert (2023). *Assessment of Alert's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) contributes to Rwanda's conflict recovery and long-term peacebuilding journey.*

initiatives include for example sympathizing with genocide survivors during the commemoration period of the genocide against the Tutsi, participating in collective farming activities for vulnerable members, support for health insurance and engaging in joint livelihood activities and saving and loans associations (ibimina).

This high-level togetherness and solidarity underscore the transformative capacity of therapy groups and forums to empower genocide affected people to revive empathetic attitudes so that to be able to contribute to positive changes and promote togetherness within their communities. A participant from a FGD in Gisagara District stated:

*“We show our support and care for our friends as we remember and pay tribute to the victims of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi. We also visit and assist ex-genocide perpetrators who are in prison, and we provide help to those who are vulnerable, whether they need financial or other forms of tangible support. We believe that visiting the imprisoned ex-genocide perpetrators is a powerful action that can bring about positive changes and inspire transformation in people's hearts.”*

(Participant of Youth FGD in Gisagara, Female, interviewed on June 9, 2023)

Considering different social groups in relation to different experience of the genocide against Tutsi, the findings revealed highest percentages of self-efficacy among women/men whose husbands/wives are imprisoned due to crimes committed during the genocide against Tutsi (93.1%), followed by new case returnees (92.9%)- and relatives of ex-prisoners (92.2%) due to the genocide against Tutsi. Reasons for this pattern will be analyzed deeply during the mid-term evaluation, but generally this indicates how group activities both forum and therapy support individuals to learn about healthier ways to cope with distress. For instance, a FGD participant in Kirehe district shared:

*“When I was reflecting on my experiences, I believed that the only solution was to drink a lot of beer, a beer we call Icyuma, to help me sleep. However, after joining this therapy group and attending sessions, I underwent a transformation and began to sleep normally.”* (Participant of

Adult FGD in Kirehe, Male, interviewed on June 9, 2023)

Furthermore, assessment findings revealed a general positive attitude among both females and males to uphold peace and unity while dealing with critical situations and the capacity to behave, act and react peacefully in case of conflictual circumstances. For example, the data show high levels of positive reactions against verbal and physical violence (95.7% and 96.5% respectively).

However, attitudes towards handling cases that offend groups in public and property conflict showed a slightly lower positive potential reaction (54.7%). For example, some participants had positive attitudes against violence related to property (65.7%), and a significant percentage still considered circumstances that may lead to the use of arms (25.2%).

Therefore, this indicates that there is still a long way to go to instill in people values of tolerance to be able to manage peaceful identity and property-based conflict.

Therefore, the project suggests strengthening ongoing efforts to promote peaceful conflict resolution and address potential triggers for violence in order to foster lasting peace and harmony in target communities. Nonetheless, the level of peaceful conflict resolution attitudes so far can be attributed to the therapy groups but also to the fact that Rwandans know the cost of peace disruption particularly based on traumatic experiences of the genocide against the Tutsi they have been striving to recover from.

### ***Peaceful initiatives undertaken jointly by supported diverse participants.***

These initiatives commonly refer to joint economic activities performed by Urumuri group members to improve their livelihood. This year, the project has recorded 42 out of 20 target joint economic activities that resulted from different charitable activities and saving activities. These include for example support for livestock, farming, etc. This surplus on the one hand explains the importance of joint activities in promoting community social cohesion and the relevance of a holistic approach to building peace on the other hand.

In fact, these initiatives are important to repair and rebuild relationship because they allow participants to work collaboratively and thus, promoting positive expectations among them yet they were enemies from being influenced by antagonistic attitudes caused by different experience of the genocide.

### ***Number of project beneficiaries who have forgiven or reconciled with their former adversaries as results of Urumuri project.***

During this reporting period the project recorded 589 individuals who asked for forgiveness (318) and forgave (271). These includes 133 supported directly from Urumuri therapy groups and forums and 456 achieved by the project supported faith-based organization, the Butare Catholic Diocese. This is the result of the psychosocial support services and established forums which have potential to unlock interactions between formers enemies and lead them to repair their relationship based on apology and forgiveness.



**Esperance Usabyimana and Francois Ruhorana who reconciled from Urumuri supported FBO (Butare Diocese Catholic Church)**

Despite the current focus on unity and resilience, these cases of reconciliation are a reminder and indication to keep on creating opportunities for reconciliation among project target communities. This is in consonant with MINUBUMWE which considers reconciliation as one step among others to achieve the current focused vision of unity and resilience.

Generally, the findings indicate that the project specific objective to improve unity, resilience, and social cohesion efforts is being achieved progressively. For example, taking reference to the data of the MHPSS assessment, there is significant sense of shared identity among community members, encompassing both females (98.4%) and males (99.9%), yielding an overall average of 99.2%. Many project participants attributed this sense of shared identity to their participation in the therapy groups. One participant stated:

*“Before I joined the therapy group, I used to harbor anger, sadness, and even resentment towards those outside my [former] ethnic group. Yet, upon becoming a member of the group, I have discovered a newfound sense of liberation and inner tranquility”* (participant of Adult FGD in Gicumbi, Female, interviewed on June 11, 2023).

The study also highlighted the integral role of therapy groups in fortifying the concept of “Ndi Umunyarwanda” (I am Rwandan: not a Tutsi, Hutu, or Twa) program. An FGD participant further expounded:

*“These therapy groups are significant for us because, prior to the sessions, you could witness individuals who were still deeply wounded; some neighbors held negative views of each other, often perceiving themselves through ‘indorerwamo y’amoko’ (an ethnic lens). The groups were necessary because we came to realize that Ndi umunyarwanda (I am Rwandan) is a fundamental concept for all of us to attain lasting peace.”* (Participant of Adult FGD in Ruhango, Female, interviewed on June 9, 2023)

While the project data demonstrate profound connections and identification with one another, it is also important to acknowledge some lingering ethnic divisions, and groups forming by identity affinities to form, for example, prosperous but non-inclusive economic units, with significant risk of passing these divisions on to younger generations. As a matter of fact, some young students have developed coded languages related to ethnic divisions.

The following sections present output data which contributed to the achievements discussed above.

## **PIR1: Historical wounds inclusive intergenerational trauma are healed.**

### **Activity 1.1. Psychosocial facilitators trained in trauma healing.**

Considering the project modification award, 270 new Urumuri facilitators were identified and selected with 138 women and 132 men. Among these include 150 community-based

facilitators (78 women and 72 men) and 120 school-based facilitators (60 men and 60 women).

Selected facilitators were trained for 5 days in June and September 2023 respectively. Key topics covered include the following topics: psychological trauma and trauma crisis, active listening, dealing with losses and grief, gender, and gender-based violence, human stages of development and intergenerational wounds and how to facilitate both group and individual counselling session.

The skills and knowledge received by trained community facilitators allow them, on one hand, to raise the awareness on trauma and historical wounds in their respective communities, highlighting both mental, physical (psychosomatic illnesses) and social effects and the support that the project can offer them on their psychosocial needs and other referral structures such as health centres. On the other hand, the awareness raising activities enable facilitators to recruit project participants in need of psychosocial support where they can join either Urumuri therapy groups made of 7 to 12 participants each or seek for individual counselling.

Specifically, trained schoolteachers are expected to support students to be aware of and be supported on trauma and historical wounds that they may have received from their parents and or from memory transmission along with potential subsequent effects in their relationship. This will allow the project to contribute to a peaceful future by addressing intergenerational challenges related to the bad history of the country specifically the genocide against Tutsi.

For example, recent studies<sup>2</sup> have shown the prevalence of historical wounds among the youth from different categories in relation to different experience of their parents from the horrific history of the country. High



**Trauma healing training for schoolteachers in Eastern Province**

prevalences were found

among young people who don't know their origin/parents (99%) followed by young people born from genocide survivors (87%). Other cases include young people born from the women who were raped during the genocide against Tutsi (69%), young people born from intermarriage families (43%) and young people whose parents have committed genocide crimes (35%).

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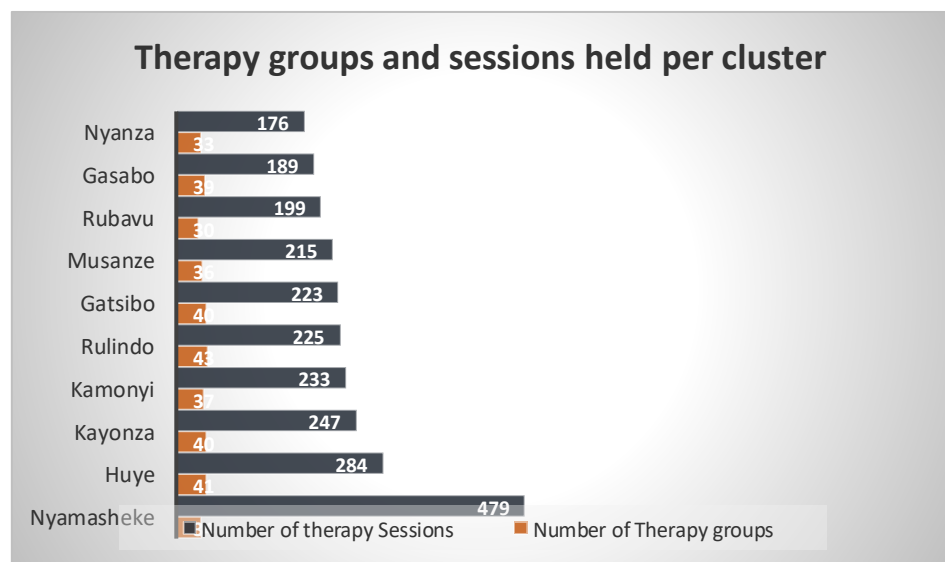
<sup>2</sup> Unity Club (2020)

In addition, the experienced personal change by schoolteachers will allow them to engaged students with confidence on critical subjects related to the genocide against Tutsi and the Rwandan history in general. Initial engagements with different stakeholders have shown that some schoolteachers find it hard to teach or engage students on subjects related the history of the country due to different factors. One of the key factors on this include the fact that some teachers have been the victim of that history in one way or another which affect their confidence to tackle these sensitive topics or worry that their memory can be emotionally triggered and influence them to react in unhealthy way.

**Activity 1.2. Therapy groups created and facilitated.**

As the results of the trauma healing training, community facilitators, both new and existing, were able to create and facilitate 374 Urumuri community-based therapy groups against 357 annual target. The surplus (5%) of the number of created therapy groups resulted from the increased request

of people in the project target communities following different awareness raising sessions and campaigns on psychosocial wounds. So far, created Urumuri therapy groups



bring together a # therapy groups and sessions held per cluster.

total of 4,352

participants, with a high number of women (60%) than men (40%).

This difference between the number of men and women is so critical because in the context dominated by patriarchal system/perceptions, men seem to be decision makers by default than women, and in case of crisis they are much involved as it was observed during the genocide against Tutsi, where the highest number of people who committed it are men. So, there is a greater need to target the men to learn from the past and nurture them peaceful attitudes.

Reasons to this difference of participation between men and women as analysed by the project can be understood from the following factors:

- **Cultural factors:** Men seem less inclined to join spaces which are potentially to raise emotions, influenced either by traditional gender norms like "amarira y'umugabo atemba aya munda" (men's tears roll into their guts) or a perception that activities lacking financial benefits are not worthwhile. As for mitigation strategy, the project aims to involve the husbands of participating women initially, to demonstrate the benefits of these groups.
- **Low participation of men ex-genocide perpetrators** due to self-stigma and isolation because of shame, guilt, and negative perceptions to them by members of their respective communities. For example, some people still consider released genocide prisoners as perpetrators, yet they have completed their sentences. To address this issue, the project has included in the community awareness campaigns some knowledge about how dissociating the person from the crime committed after he/she has served the sentence as the first step of social reintegration.
- **Financial expectations:** Activities which are not primarily for money making are less attractive to men. Although the project is not an economic oriented intervention, but it uses a three-tier approach that provides opportunities for livelihood improvement. Therefore, participants are encouraged to view the project in that perspective. In addition, the project has advocated to local authorities that similar program should be organized on quarterly basis in places where men spend much of their time such as working places, works that require physical strength for example the mining project as it was observed in Rulindo district, faith-based organizations targeting usual specific program for men, etc.

Concerning the number of therapy sessions, the project has averagely facilitated 2,470 bi-monthly therapy sessions across all project groups out of 3,514 targeted which led to the underachievement of 30%. Comparing this data to the overachievement of the number of created therapy groups, this shows that there is a general willingness of people in targeted communities to join created spaces but with low attendance rate.

Although that the project envisages to analysis deeply the causes of this low rate of attendance, there are two factors quickly identified and are the following:

- *Reduction of the frequency of organized therapy sessions during 100 days of the commemoration of the genocide against Tusi:* This event takes place every year from every 7<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> July. During this period members of project groups use most of the time set for therapy sessions to perform self-less activities supporting their fellow members who survived the genocide against Tutsi and attending different events organized for the commemoration.

- *Urban factor:* The project has observed low pace of groups creation and the alternation of therapy session and dialogue forums in urban setting. The latter is part of the strategy to balance between life and project demands given the life conditions in urban areas so as to maintain created groups.

Therefore, these factors will be taken into consideration in the next annual planning to adjust the target.

### **Act 1.3: Conduct psychosocial awareness campaigns.**

The psychosocial awareness campaigns are meant to sensitize target communities on the understanding of trauma and historical wounds, symptoms cause and inform participants on available services to address their psychosocial needs, including services offered by Urumuri project through both group and individual counselling.

This year (FY23), the project conducted 31 out of 30 targeted awareness campaigns organized in collaboration with local authorities. Organized in public spaces (open air), Project Field Officers together with Community Facilitators used diversified techniques (e.g: drama, presentation) to provide the message. As a result, these campaigns attracted an estimated number of 21,391 citizens. In addition, the project was able to register participants to create Urumuri therapy groups of which target was achieved slightly over 100%.

For example, a lady from Musanze said: *“I knew this safe space via the awareness that this woman -Litha (CF) conducted after Umuganda-community service, in which she encouraged us to join Urumuri group to share our historical wounds so that heal”* said Afsa, a participant of Ihumure dialogue forum from Musanze district, Cyuve sector.

In addition, both local authorities and lay citizens appreciated the messages provided and subscribed the relevance of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in peacebuilding intervention; for MHPSS address historical wounds and subsequent trauma while nurturing healthy coping mechanism of affected people contributing to their resilience.

One local leader in Rutsiro District said:

*This awareness raising sessions on psychosocial wounds was an opportunity to deeply understand the relevance of MHPSS in the process of promoting unity and resilience as I have realized that MHPSS paves the way for reconciliation as individuals are enabled to express their sensitive stories which disarms negative emotions towards each other. Therefore, MHPSS can contribute to conditions for unity and sustainable peace as a tool for preventing conflict or its recurrence as well as mitigating the downward spiral of social disintegration.*

In this regard, participants noted the centrality of MHPSS in the broader process of Rwanda’s national strategy for transformation (economic transformation, social transformation, and transformational governance) where for example social economic disadvantages



(unemployment, low income, poverty, etc) are consistently associated with people's poor mental health affecting everyday life with risk of suicide and drug abuse.

In addition, quite a large number of opinion leaders who participated in these awareness campaigns across the project target districts acknowledged MHPSS haven't received sufficient consideration in the public sector as the corner stone for successful peacebuilding programs. Except spaces created by NGOs, there are limited inclusive and effective community based safe spaces to address psychosocial consequences caused by the genocide against Tutsi and other shocks. The project has noted this gap and will continue to do advocacy in this regard emphasizing the contribution of MHPSS on sustaining unity and resilience outcomes.

As far as post-genocide context is concerned in Urumuri Project, participants understood how the gaps related to social determinants of mental health (economic, environment, demographic, neighbourhood, social cultural, etc.) slow down the healing process of affected people; thus, this suggests deliberate integration of MHPSS as part of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST).

These campaigns were also an opportunity to address some gaps identified in the similar campaigns previously organized, especially the low turn up of community members, other relevant stakeholders such officials from schools, health centres and other non-governmental organizations. To address these gaps, the project adopted wider mobilization strategy such as mobile sound system, engagement of community leaders and local officials from village level as pre-campaign preparations.

### **Activity 1.4-Producing audio recording clips for periodic radio broadcasts, a documentary film and TV broadcast.**

#### ***Produce audio recording clips and broadcasts.***

This is referred to Shirimpumu Drama Episodes broadcasted at Radio Rwanda every week on Thursday from 6h45 to 7h00 pm. This slot of time was selected because this is a time that most people prepare listen evening news in Kinyarwanda at 7h00pm. This program aims to raise awareness on process challenges of unity and resilience while inspiring workable solutions. The target audience of this drama is the general population, but it also targets young people as active peacebuilders who will sustain the achieved milestone.

In total this year, the project has produced and aired 53 episodes out of 48 targeted. The surplus was due to some months which counted five weeks instead of four (e.g.: December 2022, March 2023, etc.) and outreach sessions played in the awareness campaigns on psychosocial wounds.

#### ***Capacity building of Shirimpumu actors***

The interest in the media's role and its impact on peacebuilding is rising. While recognizing the destructive role media have played in many conflicts, clearly seen in Rwanda before and during the genocide against Tutsi and other parts of the world on one



hand, it is increasingly recognized that **Trained Shirimpumu Drama actors** media has potential roles and functions in conflict prevention and peacebuilding on the other hand.

In this context, the project has organized a three day-training workshop for 26 (13 male and 13 female) Shirimpumu actors with aim to improve skills on contextualized radio drama acting, context analysis, and media literacy. In terms of knowledge and skills acquired, the workshop covered key topics including the impact of Radio Drama to the society and Radio drama as a tool for social change, channels of communication, credibility of news sources, context analysis to inform drama scripts and public drama acting.

As result, participants affirmed the importance of this workshop in terms of awareness on the influence of media, accuracy check of media content and public performance. Faustin Maniragaba, Shirimpumu actor, reported that:

*I am more than 50 years old. I witnessed the role of media in planning of the genocide against Tutsi. In fact, I am grateful to the USAID Dufatanye Urumuri Project for thinking about training Shirimpumu radio drama actors to help us understand that the media are a double-edged sword which means that we must use it responsibly. Further, during this training, I enjoyed learning on verifying the accuracy of information.*

Jean de Dieu Ingabire, another Shirimpumu actor, added that:

*As a radio drama actor, I am used to being recorded in the studio without people watching me. During this training, I learnt a lot on about the skills to perform live drama. This is very important given that we will be playing live during many community platforms in our villages and elsewhere.*

### **A documentary film produced.**

A short film was produced documenting the role of MHPSS in contributing to peacebuilding in post-genocide context, with specific attention on social reintegration of ex-genocide perpetrator. This film was produced following the support provided to Butare Catholic Diocese to support their psychosocial economic reintegration of released genocide convicts. The film portrays the psychosocial conditions from the consequences of the Genocide against Tutsi, war, prison, or exile; effects on living peacefully with others; how the project

supported them to overcome related problems to the prior psychosocial conditions, resulted outcomes and recommendations in this regard for future interventions and the community at large.

Community awareness, inclusive spaces, knowledgeable facilitators, bridge building initiatives such as joint activities, and participation and support of community leaders, local authorities, and other community-based actors especially FBOs, are key factors highlighted for effective MHPSS. Particularly, interviewees highlighted the involvement and support of members of their respective families as the process catalyst and the factor to sustain the change.

### **TV Broadcast**

This is one of the activities that targeted the International Day of Peace celebrated every year on 21<sup>st</sup> September and was implemented in partnership with MINUBUMWE. Regarding the results, details will be discussed under the specific outcome (3) which provides for the partnership between International Alert and MINUBUMWE.

### **Activity 1.5 Hold clinical supervision to community facilitators.**

Under Urumuri project the clinical supervision is meant to support members of project team (both staff and facilitators) to support them on critical cases faced with, either to improve skills on how to deal and handle them, but also provide the support to overcome the setbacks as a way to prevent burnout. In addition, these engagements allow the project to boost the motivation of members of the project team, strengthening their capacities in holding and facilitating created spaces in a result-oriented fashion.

This year, four round sessions were organized and all 300 CFs including new ones were supported. This clinical supervision brought out critical issues which need to be paid attention to. The report shows that 70% of case reported presented symptoms related to depression coupled with insomnia, poor hygiene either on the body or clothes, substance and drugs abuse, loss of interest of what? among men which some people translate as being irresponsible with subsequent antisocial behaviour of overdose of alcohol consumption far away from home causing tension in the family.

A newly identified distress factor among both adult genocide survivors and ex-genocide perpetrators was also discussed. While many genocide survivors are getting older they show up signs of hopelessness that results from lacking the heir to heritadge. On the other hand, symptoms identified among the ex-genocide perpetrators include still guilt and shame which haunt their emotions and affect their reintegration into the communities. This being a belonging issue it discomferts these ex-genocide perpetrators leading them to isolation from either the public gathering (e.g: public work) and social events. Furthermore, some other ex-genocide perpetrators are haunted by flashbacks which involve the images, voices in terms of hallucinations of those whom they killed during genocide against Tutsi.

This suggests to expand individual therapeutic sessions for personal healing among affected people, and therefore, this will require to strengthen the capacity of community facilitators not only through clinical supervision but also through refresher training.

### **Progress against PRI 1 outcome indicators**

Based on project annually reported indicators, below are key registered incremental changes among project participants.

#### **Decrease of traumatic symptoms**

The annual assessment shows that the number of participants who reported the decrease of instances of trauma symptoms has averagely increased from 72.6% previously achieved (FY22) to 83.7% (FY23) which led to the increase of 11.1%, surpassing the annual target (80%) by 3.7%. Comparing to the baseline data (65.8%) this performance has made a cumulative increase of 17.9%.

It is equally important to note the difference between men (81.6%) and women (85.8%) which may be attributed to the challenge they face when it comes to express how the historical events have affected them emotionally. This may not only be explained by the potential implication of emotional numbness as a trauma symptom but also by some cultural expectations, as one Rwandan proverb says, “*amarira y’umugabo atemba alya mu nda*” (the tears of a man drop inside). This suggests a need to increase mental health help-seeking campaigns targeting men’s contexts in Rwanda but also the need to find more creative ways to support their healing needs.

Nonetheless, this achievement demonstrates how Urumuri project nurtures recovery from the lasting imprint of the genocide against Tutsi with evidence of improvement in psychological wellbeing of project participants as put it this way below by a participant from Kirehe:

*“We really needed this therapy group 100%; as many people were in loneliness, having bad relationships with others, but this therapy group healed us.” (Participant in Adult FGD in Kirehe, female, interviewed on June 9, 2023).*

As analyzed by the project, one of the key factors explaining the role of psychosocial support in enabling people to recover from historical wounds and trauma is that these spaces nurture empathetic attitudes among participants which allow them to express their emotions and feelings with hope to be heard. This is illustrated in the following quotes of project participants from Gisagara District:

*“I came to the therapy group because I was always sad and wondered **WHY** my family was subjected to genocide” (FGD Youth, Female, Gisagara, interviewed on June 9, 2023). Another FGD from the same therapy group added, “I came to a therapy group because I always wondered **WHY***

*my parents were incarcerated. I came to the therapy group because I wanted a place to express my feelings and be heard” (FGD Youth, Male, Gisagara).*

### **Positive inter-group interactions among project participants form diverse groups.**

The findings of the annual assessment show that participants reporting positive inter-group interactions has slightly increased from 94.6% (FY22) to 95.8% against 96% target, leading to average cumulative increase of 14.8% comparing to 81% baseline data. In terms of gender, men are slightly more interactive (96.7%) than women (94.9%) which demonstrates how Urumuri therapy groups are favourable for both genders to allow positive interactions and its ability to manage group dynamics related to male-dominated cultural behaviours.

The significance of this percentage of positive interactions can be attributed to the enabling environment under Urumuri therapy group, allowing individuals to lower their guards and express emotional vulnerability. Participants in these spaces openly discuss the pain in their hearts, providing a platform for collective healing and the provision of counselling support to those in need, described by a participant in a focus group discussion:

*In therapy groups, we talked about pain in our hearts, and everyone could share his/her grief caused by the terrible history of the genocide against the Tutsi, experience sharing and provision of counseling to those who need it. Those are the main and significant activities of therapy groups in our group. (FGD participant, Adult, female, Dufatanye Urumuri Project)*

Generally, the achievement described above demonstrates the transformative capacity of Urumuri therapy groups of enabling positive relationships specifically for mixed groups (based on the former ethnic classifications) with different experience of the bad history of the country; and underscores the role of mental health and psychosocial support (MH&PSS) to build lasting peace. In fact, this is the result of nurtured ability of participants of Urumuri therapy groups to talk about pain in their hearts which is important indicator of the communities’ social trust and willingness to heal together.

Furthermore, this level of genuine mutual trust among project participants and their ability to go beyond what some of them described as “kurenzaho” (pretending that one is emotionally healthy or that a relationship is good when it is not) is an important peacebuilding and reconciliation milestone in the recovery process from the “genocide of proximity” as one of the MPHSS and Peacebuilding experts described the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The quote below from the peace of mind research<sup>3</sup> describes it as follows:

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<sup>3</sup> International Alert (2023). *Assessment of Alert’s mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) contribution to Rwanda’s conflict recovery and long-term peacebuilding journey.*

*“Therapy groups have the potential to help individuals change their behaviors. For instance, one may successfully engage in a one-on-one healing process, recover from historical wounds, but with no contribution in terms of rebuilding social ties with the person who inflicted the harm on them. However, when one heals from within a therapy group setting, the process leaves the healed person with a sense of responsibility to repair relationships with other people, including those who are the sources of his/her emotional pains.”* (KI, Male, MHPSS and Peacebuilding expert, interviewed on June 30, 2023)

### **Enhanced psychosocial resilience.**

In Urumuri project, psychosocial resilience is referred to as the ability of project participants to cope with the effects of historical wounds expressed through self-awareness, mindfulness, self-care, positive relationship, and purpose. In the context of Rwanda, resilience is considered as the key pillar for national unity as stipulated by MINUBUMWE and explained in previous sections.

The findings of the annual assessment compared to the baseline data (47%) show improvement of psychological resilience among project participants as demonstrated by the average increase of participants reporting the gain of capacity to cope with post-genocide consequences from 45.8% (FY22) to 65.95% (FY23). This increase is mainly attributed to frequent attendance of mixed participants to therapy sessions which allowed quality interactions and collaboration.

It is equally important to note that the project observed notable cooperation among participants through joint activities and mutual support; thereby, responding simultaneously to livelihood and emotional well-being needs and nurturing sustainable peace and resilience.

### **Readiness to share sensitive stories.**

The willingness of people from diverse groups to share personal sensitive stories is a key step in the process collective healing and an indicative sign of certain level of trust building. In this regard the project annual assessment demonstrates that the average number of participants who reported increased comfort to share sensitive stories reached 69.3% (65.1% for male and 66.8% for female) from 54.6% (FY22) previously achieved. This change has led a total of 26.3% cumulative increase compared to the baseline data (43%).

This change underscores the significance of psychosocial support services provided by Urumuri project in the target communities, particularly in the context of historical traumas, and emphasize the importance of community-based approaches to healing and reconciliation.

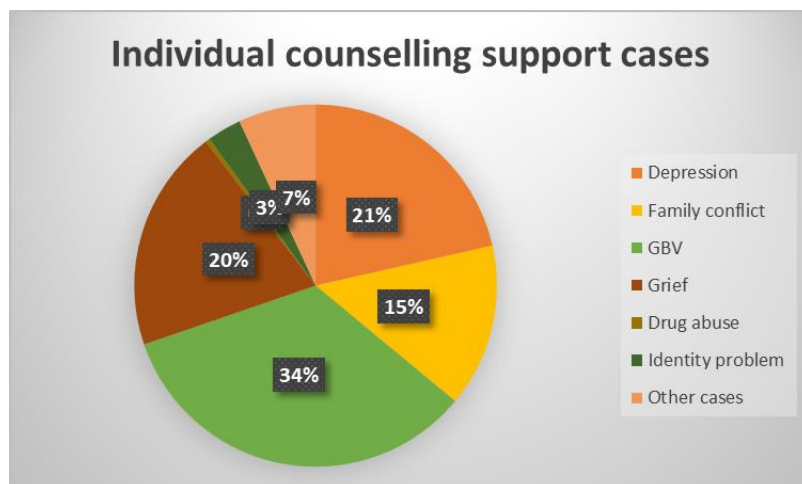
However, the MHPSS assessment revealed low percentage of participants with readiness to share sensitive stories with demobilized soldiers from armed groups (42.8%), ex-FAR members (46%), historically marginalized people (48%), and spouse of people convicted of the genocide crimes (50.7%). This suggests the need to create targeted initiatives that can

intentionally address the unique experiences of those particular groups that are behind the emotional and physical pains the communities are striving to heal from after the genocide against the Tutsi.

**GNDR-6 Number Of people reached by a USG funded intervention providing GBV services (e.g., health, legal, psychosocial counseling, shelters, hotlines, other)**

This indicator is mainly tracked from individual counselling sessions provided to people in the target communities not yet ready for group support. It tracks not only the number but also the effectiveness of the support provided to participants. In total, 261 individuals out of 600 targeted, were supported on different cases. This underachievement was due to delayed roll out of awareness raising in new sectors. Women (62.5%) are majority of people seeking counselling services than men (37.5%). In terms of types of cases received, as presented in the chart here next, predominant cases are gender-based violence of different forms (34%) followed by depression (21%), grief (20%), and family conflict (15%) related to seeking advice on life challenge.

This demonstrates that individual counselling services allow people to seek for support on private issues and very emotional cases for instance grief, sexual abuse, that are difficult to handle in public settings.



However, while cases categorized as “other” has a significant percentage (20%). This suggests that the project needs to dig deep analysing these cases and their relation to the overall project goal. This will be one of the focuses of the mid-term evaluation.

Concerning the effectiveness of the support provided, the MHPSS assessment shows that 82.45 % reported improved wellbeing following the psycho- social counselling support received on GBV cases they have experienced. However, only 21.93% of men (n=25) reported improvement in wellbeing whereas 78.7% of women (n=89) reported greater improvement. This suggests a particular analysis of why men are far behind on improved well-being, and this will be considered in the mid-term evaluation.

Finally, the overall experience of Urumuri project in this reporting period as far as community healing is concerned, is that mental health and psychosocial support (MH&PSS) remain the

key precursor element in fostering reconciliation, social cohesion, trust, and lasting peace among citizens still haunted by traumatic memories.

## **PIR 2: Capacities and self-confidence of key actors including local leaders, teachers, FBOs leaders are reinforced to critically dialogue on key conflict drivers.**

During this reporting period, the key activities implemented under this PIR focused on capacity building targeting various actors (e.g: community leaders and local authorities, FBOs' leaders etc) in view to strengthen community-based structures to support citizens in project target communities to improve their psychological wellbeing, repair and nurture relationship and trust and support efforts for social reintegration of ex-genocide prisoners.

Furthermore, in a bid to contribute to upholding achieved milestone in the recovery process against the aftermath of the genocide against Tutsi, the project organized different engagements with different stakeholders to raise awareness on challenges and contemporary issues susceptible to impend the process of unity and resilience and how to address them.

### **Activity 2.1. Train community facilitators on conflict sensitivity, conflict transformation, dialogue and mediation**

This activity was implemented last year (FY22) targeting community facilitators in the existing sectors of intervention before the project modification award. Trained facilitators established and continued to facilitate Urumuri forums where participants meet to dialogue on different topics in relation to their needs of strengthening relationships, they also do discussions on persisting challenges and contemporary issues which can impeded the strides they made in the process of unity and resilience. Details of achieved results are presented and discussed below under activity 2.3.

### **Activity 2.2. Train faith-based leaders on unity, resilience and social cohesion using religious concepts and create unity clubs within their churches.**

This is a dual activity about building the capacity of leaders of Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and support eligible initiatives and potential to produce social cohesion outcomes.

Faith based organizations (FBOs) are key stakeholders as agents of change to promote peace and unity, especially using faith-oriented approaches to social healing and resilience. According to Rwanda's Fifth Population and Housing Census, conducted in August 2022, approximately 97% of the population holds religious beliefs, which makes FBOs relevant stakeholders to reach out a wider audience at different social layers, hence, the training here reported.



This year, the project trained in total 120 (10 women and 110 men) district level FBO leaders as planned using religious concepts on trauma/wounds healing and promoting social cohesion. This training was implemented in four round sessions with a twofold purpose: first, to support FBO Leaders to recognize both personal and social/relational effects of the lived history while creating opportunities for personal healing to build their confidence to support others; second, equip FBO Leaders with convenient skills and knowledge to play a paramount role in addressing historical legacies of the genocide against Tutsi and divisive politics in their respective communities.

The remained number

### **Training outcomes**

Trained participants have realized two main things which prevent them to fully play their role in the process of promoting unity and resilience:

- First, participants acknowledged that they still grapple with their personal trauma/wounds caused by their experience of the genocide against Tutsi which trickle down their governance/leadership attitudes and behaviour. This suggests that FBOs leaders need first to heal/change so that they can effectively support others. One Pastor from Anglican Church of Rwanda (EAR) in Eastern Province said:

*“ we are still struggling to relate well with our past and this affect the way we lead and our attitudes and perceptions towards our colleagues whom we don’t share the same background; as matter of fact, most of the conflicts we go/have gone through in our denominations have ethnic connotations, and this shows that before we start helping others, we need first to heal from our own traumatic experiences.”*

- Second, trained religious leaders also realized that their programs address partly the challenges/legacies which stemmed from that tragic history yet the holy books (the Bible and the Koran) have sufficient responsive provisions which are indeed complementary to non-faith-based approaches. This was echoed by a Pastor from Pentecostal Church of Rwanda (ADEPR) in Southern and put it this way:

*“This training allowed me to understand that we, FBOs Leaders, owe much our country and the communities we serve compared to what we think we do or have done in relation to promote unity and social cohesion. In fact, since the halt of the genocide against Tutsi, even before, we have been teaching and we continue to teach peace, love, unity, and togetherness but with reservation to openly refer to the country’s history and contextual issues which destroyed the social fabric of Rwandan society, on pretext that unity and reconciliation are solely political concepts. This attitude has limited our denominations to create well-tailored opportunities to support affected people in*

*our target communities, yet this is the mandate of any religious organization as provided in the faith books, especially the Bible”.*<sup>4</sup>

Nonetheless, participants identified areas which need more focus and committed to play their role. These areas include mainly:

- The issue of reintegrating (both psychosocially and economically) released ex-genocide prisoners together with their families and rebuild broken relationship with people they offended; the remained cases of unpaid properties looted or destroyed during the genocide against Tutsi which they found as a bottleneck to reconciliation.
- The issue of unhealed wounds mostly observed during the commemoration period of the genocide against Tutsi; and uncovered victim bodies of Tutsi which continue to haunt memories of survivors due to uncompleted grieving.
- In addition to this, participants mentioned the issue of low ownership of the commemoration of the genocide against Tutsi within their denominations.
- There are also issues related to social and livelihood challenges particularly for some genocide survivors whose shelters are in bad condition and need to be renovated or replaced to prevent the exacerbation of traumatic conditions.

It is equally important to note that some FBOs introduced different initiatives. For example, the Butare Diocese of the Catholic Church of Rwanda initiated a reintegration intervention about psychosocial and economic support for ex-prisoners of genocide against Tutsi and survivors. Urumuri project supported the intermediary stage of this initiative specifically the official reconciliation inauguration/celebrations for 456 people reconciled in the Magi and Mugomba Parishes in Gisagara District.

### **Activity 2.3 Hold unity dialogue sessions (Urumuri forums)**

Prior to hold unity dialogue sessions, the project established convenient spaces referred to as Urumuri forums which resulted from the graduation of Urumuri therapy groups. In this regard, 259 forums were created out of 300 targeted and are formed by 6,896 participants predominantly women (61%) compared to men (39%).

Since these forums were created, of course in a progressive manner, 4,205 out of 4,500 target dialogue sessions were held by trained community facilitators with aim to identify and discuss challenges and contemporary issues still hampering the process of unity and resilience and propose how to solve them as members of forums and submit difficulty ones to local authorities. As mentioned above, the target was not achieved as planned due to the number

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<sup>4</sup> ” ..... that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation....” (2 Corinthians 5:19; NIV Bible)

of forums which have not yet been created and delayed graduation of Urumuri therapy groups to Urumuri forums.

#### **Activity 2.4. Hold reconciliation successes celebration events.**

Celebrations of project successes were done in 21 districts of over 30 targeted. These events attracted more people than it was expected following the request by local authorities to organize them in the open air so as to inspire as many people as possible and counteract the spiral over effect of the viral incident case of Abakono<sup>5</sup> traditional identity group, who dared to appoint their representative with risk to downgrade recovery strides by taking back the population to ethnic/clan stereotypes and finally downplay the spirit and philosophy of national identity.

These events also played an important role in advocating for specific areas of focus which need special attention in the district plans, and the project identified the following 11 main areas:

1. Revamp focused and structured unity dialogues (e.g Ndi Umunyarwanda, challenges, etc.) in place where people spend most of their time with others such workplace, cooperative, prayer gatherings, etc.
2. Improve handover process of released prisoners convicted of genocide crimes from Rwanda Correction Services (RCS) to local authorities and connect them to different actors to further their reintegration.
3. Engage, collaborate, and support community-based structures with higher influence on communities and equip them with required knowledge and skills as a way to ground and sustain social healing, social cohesion and social reintegration interventions.
4. Increase the budget for unity and resilience related programs to allow monitoring and follow up by local government officials and other actors as well as effective community engagement.
5. Establish, at district level a specific cluster of actors who intervene in the domain of unity and resilience to allow constructive engagement on sensitive issues so that promote exchange learning among practitioners.
6. Strengthen unity and resilience forum to hold accountable actors, community leaders and authorities and support existing coordination mechanisms.
7. Address the issue of low participation of men, with particular case of released convicts

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<sup>5</sup> Abakono is among the 18 main Rwandan tradition identity and are different from the former ones referred to as Hutu, Twa and Tutsi.

of genocide crimes.

8. Deeply analyse and effectively address persisting challenge of stereotypes that are based on former ethnic groups; particularly, districts in Eastern Province.
9. Dismantle existing stereotypes (negative perceptions) based on places of origin of relocating families and associated practices/behaviours by host communities in Eastern Province
10. Empower development actors, both government and non-government in conflict sensitivity approach as a strategy to envision lasting peace.
11. Integrate conflict sensitivity considerations should be reflected in the plans of actors, both government and its stakeholders/partners
12. Ensure that peace and conflict assessment is mandatory for any project or program activity to be implemented.

The issues above mentioned do not undermine steps made from recovery efforts, but they matter a lot to uphold and sustain peace and unity. Thereby, as a way forward, the project will continue to follow on the above advocacy subjects and conduct deeper analysis with intention to take them at national level platform for further advocacy as policy issues which needs policy actions.

#### **Activity 2.5 Train districts officials on 'livelihood for peace'**

This year, the project trained 30 (11 female and 19 men) authorities remained from southern province, leading to a total of 139 participants out of 150 targeted. Note that the overall goal of this training was to equip participants with knowledge and skills to allow them to situate their actions and those of stakeholders within a broader vision and purpose of a peaceful Rwanda by integrating conflict sensitive approach into their planning.

As done for previous groups the project engaged participants on key concepts, approach, and tools to be able to integrate conflict sensitivity considerations in their programs, planning, monitoring, and evaluation and hold accountable district stakeholders.

While trained participants are technical staff who rarely participate in the decision-making process, the following are recommendations to take forward as strategy to conjugate bottom up and top-down efforts to improve the ownership for considerations of conflict sensitivity:

- Development actors, both government and non-government should be able to analyze multiple sources of conflict at various levels of society as a strategy to envision lasting peace, therefore, a particular engagement of decision makers is highly necessary.

- Both government and its stakeholders/partners should promote conflict sensitive development in concrete manner, thus peace and conflict assessment should be mandatory for any project or program activity to be implemented.

### **Activity 2.6-Provide support to district level youth selfless initiatives to boost joint initiatives for unity, resilience, and social cohesion.**

During this reporting period, the project has partly implemented this activity, by organizing a training for 60 Urumuri youth group representatives on narrative theater as peacebuilding approach which suggests going beyond the powerless feeling and despair resulted from violence/conflict and develop good relations between people which makes the narrative theater as a new coping strategy.

This training was organized in two round sessions in August (29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>) and September (12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>) and its overall goal was to equip participants (youth) with skills to play their role in strengthening the social fabric in the project target communities through stimulating creative problem solving and lessen the effects of historical legacies of the country's bad history and contemporary issues. In terms of knowledge and skills, trained youth groups can engage and discuss community problems by looking at their root causes and mapping all possible consequences at all levels (individual-family-community and national) and come up with collective and realistic solutions raised during the forum.

While the Rwandan background of genocide has left many problems-based stories, such group discussions which are story-based are the best way for conflict resolution and prevention and will allow a positive and constructive cooperation, expand opportunities for social bridges and improved cohesion between young Rwandans and bring them to complete reconciliation and unity. As a way forward in the next fiscal year (24), the project plans to support potential initiatives of trained youth who will manage to repackage well and practice what they learned from the training.

### **Activity 2.7. Facilitate and support joint socio-economic activities for livelihood improvement and trust building, one initiative by each target district.**

Under this activity the project will facilitate and support 2 socio-economic activities per district (60 countrywide) jointly initiated by vulnerable genocide survivors and former genocide prisoners in their process of healing and reconciliation as an opportunity to nurture their social cohesion and trust and to increase their ability to secure household livelihood.

While the assessment to identify eligible initiatives to be supported is under preparation, the project has identified 42 joint economic initiatives and 142 village saving and loans associations (VSLAs) with a total saving of Frw 24,021,995. This underscores the effectiveness of holistic approach in addressing psychosocial economic long-term consequences of violence as

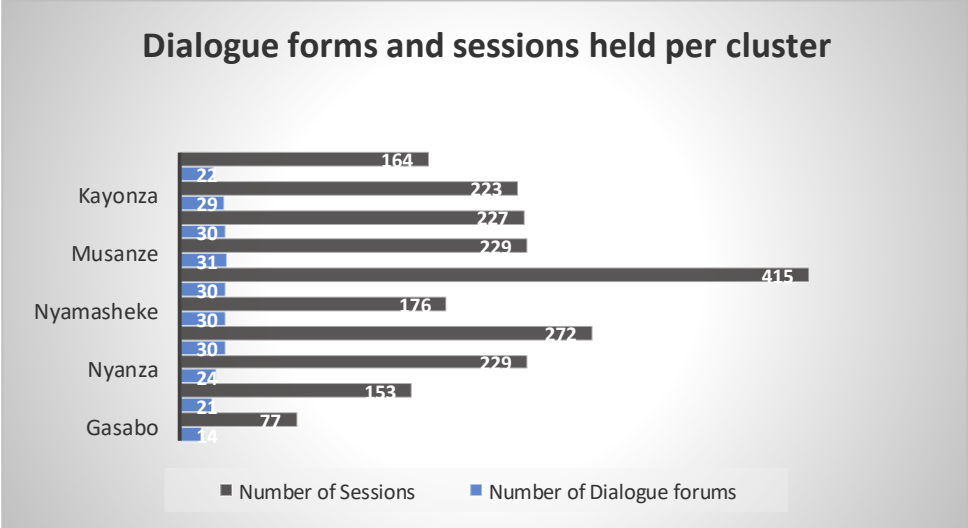
described in the section below (Intermediary results against change indicators under PIR 2). Further analysis of the MHPSS assessment revealed that 81.6% Urumuri participants who participate in saving groups but with the highest participation of female (83%) than male (78.7%). This difference will be analyzed deeply during the mid-term evaluation.

**Progress against PIR 2 outcome indicators**

**Number of inclusive dialogue spaces created within communities, schools, FBOs and by local leaders.**

Dialogue spaces are also referred to Urumuri forums. This year, the project created 259 out of 300 dialogue spaces from graduated therapy groups. As show the figures, the target was not achieved as

planned since creating forums needs more time to complete the required number of participants, that is 30. In addition, project field officers have



had competing priorities to select new facilitators, train them and create therapy groups in new sectors after the project modification, and delayed graduation of Urumuri therapy groups to Urumuri forums, and this slightly affected the pace to establish these dialogue forums.

For Urumuri project dialogue spaces are meant to support participants for deeper healing and further interactions to nurture peaceful relationships and trust. They also allow participants to promote reconciliation and forgiveness, allowing individuals to mend broken relationships and find healing, thereby developing abilities to resist any influence of discrimination, division, and tendencies of negative ideology.

In fact, community forum structure, formed by people with different historical backgrounds, gives each party the opportunity to gather more information about the other and adjust expectations and attitude accordingly. While created forums also hold discussions about life challenges, it was learned that such discussions from a healing environment ignite empathy

and a sense of togetherness which yield tremendous social cohesion outcomes such as solidarity. An example of this is the self-less actions which should be branded as **everyday peace indicator**.

### **Openness on sensitive conflict issues**

The findings of the annual assessment on this indicator show an impressive improvement (from 50% baseline to 73.6% achieved) of project participants to openly tackle sensitive problems they observe or face within their respective communities. This performance which surpassed the annual target (50%) underscores the role of the culture of dialogue to address post-genocide legacies as communities are empowered to take responsibility in critical situations. It also reveals the pivotal role of dialogue to ensure a peaceful future because issues are identified and resolved before they escalate into tension and conflict. However, the difference between men (71.2%) and women (76.1%) needs to be analyzed deeply to explore the uniqueness of women and attached opportunities to bolster peacebuilding efforts.

### **Trusting the other**

The findings of the annual assessment indicate a significant increase (11.4%) of the percentage of people who improved trusting members from different historical background identity groups from 44% baseline to 55.4% achieved. Key drivers to this change are mainly the frequency of interactions, well equipped facilitators, and bridge building initiatives performed by group members with aim to support vulnerable people among them regardless their former ethnic background and for their livelihood improvement.

As matter of facts, participants in Focus Group Discussions (FGD) shared that their socio-economic cooperations through initiatives like saving and credit communities locally known as *ibimina* (collective saving work), and intermarriages are some key evidence of rebuilding social trust, tolerance, and repaired relationships within their communities especially after the genocide against the Tutsi. This confirms that community trust is the determinant of successful reconciliation and its vital aim.

One FGD participant stated the following in the peace of mind research:

*Genocide perpetrators, even survivors of the genocide against the Tutsis, can gather and you see that no one is hiding from the other. Myself, as a genocide survivor, I feel that I have reached a satisfactory level because my children got married after the genocide, regardless of my historical wounds, and you can see that we are in a group with individuals from different ethnic groups [based on the former ethnic classifications which are no longer acceptable in Rwanda]. You see ... now we are open to each other, we do not pretend anymore, everyone has dared to say what was wrong during the genocide against the Tutsi. We have all realized that we all had historical wounds but now no one treats the other unfairly due to the [former] ethnic groups. You see that we are already*

one and we do not discriminate against each other. (FGD participant, Adult, Ruhango district, Female, interviewed on June 8, 2023)

**Number of actionable recommendations on sensitive conflict issues from reconciliation successes celebration events which inform the district reconciliation initiatives.**

During FY23, the project was able to collect 10 actionable recommendations (see section 2.4). These were collected from different project reports and engagement with different stakeholders and regular context analysis. Some recommendations are not new, but they are deemed to remain on table because they are persisting and are likely to continue because genocide legacies may last for many years even decades. Among the new recommendations include:

1. Improve handover process of released prisoners convicted of genocide crimes, from Rwanda Correction Services (RCS) to local authorities and connect them to different actors to further their reintegration.
2. Build the capacity of people of influence on communities (abavuga rikumvikana) and equip them with required knowledge and skills as a way to ground and sustain social healing, social cohesion and social reintegration interventions.
3. Increase the district budget for unity and resilience related programs to allow monitoring and community engagement.
4. Establish under JADF specific cluster of actors in the domain of unity, reconciliation, and resilience to allow constructive engagement on sensitive issues so that promote exchange learning among practitioners.
5. Strengthen district unity and resilience forum to hold accountable actors, community leaders and authorities and support existing coordination mechanisms.
6. Address the issue of low participation of men, with particular case of released convicts of genocide crimes.
7. Deeply analyse and effectively address persisting challenge of stereotypes that are based on former ethnic groups; particularly, districts in Eastern Province.
8. Dismantle existing stereotypes (negative perceptions) based on places of origin of relocating families and associated practices/behaviours by host communities in Eastern Province
9. Empower development actors, both government and non-government in conflict sensitivity approach as a strategy to envision lasting peace.



10. Integrate conflict sensitivity considerations should be reflected in the plans of actors, both government and its stakeholders/partners
11. Ensure that peace and conflict assessment is mandatory for any project or program activity to be implemented.

### ***Strengthened social cohesion through bridge building initiatives.***

Bridge building initiatives are efforts made by project participants to address both social and livelihood/economic needs facing with as group members. These include selfless services to support vulnerable people among members group and joint economic activities including village saving and loans associations (VSLAs) or any other type of saving scheme. This year, the project recorded 317 initiatives out of 150 targets including 175 selfless activities and 142 VSLAs.

In the context of peacebuilding, these initiatives not only respond to the social economic wellbeing needs of project participants, but they also contribute to peacebuilding outcomes. In fact, frequent meetings allow participants to rehumanize each other and nurture their social cohesion trust. Two main responsible factors among others for the success of these chartable activities are that individuals to be supported are identified or selected based on their needs and vulnerability regardless of their former ethnic groups, and that people from different background join to perform the intended service which deconstruct harbored negative perceptions.

It is equally important to note that although self-less practices are naturally rooted in Rwandan cultural values, but their realization in the context of social cohesion gives them weight because they are performed by people who have had impaired relationship before they joined the project. So, this promotes resilience and paves the way for the sustainability of change.

### ***DR.3.1-2 Number of groups trained in conflict mediation/resolution skills or consensus- building techniques with USG assistance.***

During this reporting period the project trained 31 groups leading to 84 total achieved from 53 previously achieved. These included local authorities from 7 districts and FBOs leaders from 24 districts.

### ***DNR 10: Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance.***

Although in Rwanda there is no war or open conflict that require formal peace process, but ongoing peacebuilding interventions are still needed to prevent the reoccurrence of the crisis experienced since the 1959 which culminated in the genocide against Tutsi of 1994 and subsequent consequences, including the insurgency war. Therefore, during this reporting

period, 139 women have been recorded from different project activities providing support in different capacities to promote unity and resilience process in Rwanda. These include women schoolteachers, women leaders of faith-based organisation and community facilitators trained in providing psychosocial support and are now providing support in their respective communities.

### **PIR 3: MINUBUMWE's efforts to successfully lead and manage the reintegration and reconciliation of former genocidaires who are eligible for release and avert or mitigate instability attributable to former genocidaires are supported.**

One of the key milestones achieved this year is the official partnership framework signed in the form of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between International Alert and the Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement (MINUBUMWE) which is the line ministry responsible for programs related to the goal of Urumuri project. This partnership, which went into force in April, will give more value and significant visibility to the project. Most importantly, this will facilitate the endorsement process for structural policy influence as intended by the project.

During this reporting period, the project has managed to implement activities that set foundational preparedness for the agreed workplan as reported in the next sections.

#### **3.1 Assist MINUBUMWE to establish and implement policy, processes, and regulatory frameworks for the release and reintegration of genocidaires.**

MINUBUMWE with Urumuri support established guidelines for community healing, social cohesion, and social reintegration interventions with the aim to provide guidance and direction to stakeholders in these sectors. These guidelines give clarity on the minimum package that should be provided to intervention beneficiaries in these sectors. The guidelines propose among other components, a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework that will help in tracking and assessing the results of all interventions conducted in the three sectors, i.e. community healing, social cohesion and social reintegration.

The dissemination of these guidelines, which will be implemented in the form of capacity building, is planned in the next fiscal year (FY24) and will target different actors including CSOs, FBOs and local authorities through workshops, radio/ TV shows, mega awareness campaigns, among other approaches. Other the target audience for this dissemination includes key stakeholders such as elected local leaders, unity and resilience opinion leaders (volunteers, youth and women structures, representative of people with disabilities,

protectors of friendship pacts, etc.), media representatives, faith-based organizations, civil society organizations and members of the private sector, to mention just a few.

### **3.2: Support MINUBUMWE's leadership role in reintegrating convicts of genocide-related crimes.**

A mapping of key actors was conducted by MINUBUMWE and its partners in unity, reconciliation/resilience, and social cohesion initiatives in the country with the following objectives: 1) More coordinated efforts and avoidance of duplications; 2) identifying gaps in national coverage; 3) identifying partners for implementation of various strategies, including reintegration of Genocide prisoners.

Based on the findings of this mapping, which is under finalization stage, a capacity building plan will be developed to allow these to establish, monitor and sustain community structures for social healing, social cohesion, and social reintegration interventions.

A working group of partners working on reintegration of genocide prisoners was established comprising government institutions and non-governmental organizations that have implemented prisoners' reintegration interventions namely: Rwanda Correction Service (RCS), Ministry of Internal Security (MININTER), Rwanda National Police (RNP), Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), Ministry of National Unity and Citizen Engagement (MINUBUMWE), International Alert, Prison Fellowship Rwanda, Interpeace with the possibility of being expanded to include other relevant stakeholders.

A programme document that will orient the reintegration of genocide perpetrators was produced by a consultant with inputs from these institutions. In the upcoming month, there will be a coordination meeting involving relevant government agencies, and the document will be reviewed and validated by all members of the working group before the program's launch with support from the project.

Outcome indicators, those will be assessed in the course of next fiscal plan.

### **PIR 4: Information generated from this intervention is used to influence high level decision- making in regarding unity, resilience, and social cohesion.**

#### **DR.4.2-2 Number of civil society organizations (CSOs) receiving USG Assistance engaged in advocacy interventions.**

In collaboration with MINUBUMWE, Urumuri project has engaged 30 local non-government organizations and faith-based organizations around the need of improving reintegration process of people convicted of crimes genocide related to the genocide against Tutsi and other contemporary issues with risk to affect the process of unity and resilience. This has led to establish the guidelines to support the process and the establishment of a particular

program, still under designing process, to implement different activities related to social reintegration.

#### **Activity 4.1- Conduct two exchange learning workshops for 300 District Officials, and CSOs/FBOs**

One learning workshop implemented in 3 sessions was conducted in Ngoma (87 participants) and Gatsibo (92 participants) districts in Eastern province and Burera (22 participants) in Northern province and attracted in total 203 participants out of 300 targeted. The workshop targeted members of district forum of unity and resilience, and those include community leaders, local authorities, opinion leaders, FBOs, CSOs and parliamentarians and Senators of the commission of human right, fight against genocide, and promoting the culture of peace.

This workshop was implemented earlier than planned because of rising identify /stereotypes-based issues in the district mentioned above. So, the core aim of this workshops was to do exchanges with stakeholders on the key achievements in the process of improving inclusive unity and social cohesion, discuss issues and challenges affecting the process and do exchanges on lessons learnt from Urumuri project for considerations by participants.

These districts were selected based on specific challenges and issues of concern found there, collected from project reports and regular context analysis. Notably, these districts have two common challenges of having had limited number of actors working in the domain of social cohesion, and limited confidence and ownership of local authorities to tackle sensitive subject related to the country's history.

Particularly, citizen in both Gatsibo and Ngoma districts exhibit persisting and worrying attitudes about seeing themselves and others through stereotypes which are based either on former ethnic groups or places of origin of newly relocated citizens. These attitudes have substantial trickle-down effects to the youth and influence on the process of electing community leaders. A low participation of released prisoners convicted of genocide crimes in government programs was also observed.

For Burera District, there was noted identity affinities in line with tradition identities (e.g.: Abakonya) that have been used to win leadership and other job positions and have easy access to economic opportunities, jeopardising inclusive governance principles and equal right and access to the country's opportunities.

Nonetheless, these workshops increased the awareness on these issues and the following are contributions/inputs, suggestions, and recommendations suggested by participants in this regard:

- Unity starts with individual/self before it gets to others and that should be the prime lens to check the progress. So, while Rwanda is at good pace of reconciliation in

figures but there is a worrying gap at individual level. So, unity shouldn't be seen only through figures but also in real community life, otherwise there is no way to build an effective social cohesion.

- Some participants pointed out specific categories that can support the process and areas of improvement to be effective. Those are schoolteachers - as community assets to promote unity and social cohesion but have challenges to tackle sensitive topic related to the tragic history of Rwanda. FBOs - but however much they are trusted they need to change first. Local authorities - but they need to upright the agenda and prioritize peacebuilding related programs from any other business (AOB) level- one Sector Executive Secretary revealed that they normally tackle social cohesion related topics as communique, but he committed to improve that. Foremost, all these actors need first to change so as to change others.
- Other participants have pointed out the names of some model villages with affinity to some identities (umudugudu wa AVEGA, umudugudu w'abacitse ku icumu, etc.) which critically worried participants as a future risk to hold back the process of unit and resilience due to the likelihood to uphold ethnic stereotypes if not changed.
- It was also revealed that low participation of people in unity-led spaces especially in working places impedes the reconciliation process of Rwandans. So, dialogue should target institutions and make it an intended cross cutting area for both government and non-government actors. Non-schooled youth were presented as a category of people that need more attention due to limited interventions targeting them in this particular domain.
- Given the fragile context of Rwanda, people should always think of conflict sensitivity in all their endeavours be it personal or collective and focus more on common interest. But what is essential among many others is to change the mindset. As no one can sew a new piece of cloth on an old cloth, people should therefore destroy old things instead of painting them.

#### **Activity 4.2- Carry out one high level advocacy meeting targeting decision makers.**

This activity is planned in the FY24, however, process activities to achieve this some are under implementation and or preparation process such as the context analysis, mid-term evaluation and the MHPSS assessment which was recently completed (Activity 4.3).

### **Activity 4.3. Use feedback from community participants to advocate MINUBUMWE for reforms.**

This activity is planned for FY24, and resource information will derive from different project reports, and assessment/research among which one of them was completed as described below.

#### **Assessment of Alert's mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)'s contributions to Rwanda's conflict recovery and long-term peacebuilding journey**

This assessment was conducted with objective to assess the integration of MHPSS in peacebuilding (MHPSS-peacebuilding nexus) to better understand and gather evidence on how MHPSS is implemented and contributes to successful, resilient, and sustainable peacebuilding outcomes. The findings were also used to inform the project annually reported target indicators.

Part of key findings of this assessment found that Rwandan people have different experience to their historical events as one respondent stated: "*Genocide survivors bear the scars of trauma, while ex-prisoners carry the weight of shame.*" (Participant in Adult FGD in Nyarugenge, Male, interviewed on June 11th, 2023).

Nonetheless, the findings indicated the tremendous contribution of MHPSS to peacebuilding, and main ones are the following: Mutual trust and societal tolerance among both females (56.9%) and males (57.9%), individual readiness to share personal sensitive stories within groups of diverse backgrounds (54.9%), quality of interactions (positive perception) of beneficiaries with different categories of people (88.4%), participation in discussion on personal historical wounds between the adults and the youth by gender, Level of Self-efficacy in positive transformations within the community (91.1%), sense of shared identity<sup>6</sup> (99.2%)

Generally, this assessment shows that for a societal healing process to contribute to peacebuilding in the post-genocide era, efforts in Rwanda require multifaceted individual and community-centered approaches that acknowledge the profound impact of trauma on social ties and equip individuals and communities with the capacity to repair their relationships.

For example, it was found that therapy groups have the potential to help individuals change their behaviors. During the interviews one participants put it this way:

*One may successfully engage in a one-on-one healing process, recover from historical wounds, but with no contribution in terms of rebuilding social ties with the person who inflicted the harm on them. However, when one heals from within a therapy group setting, the process leaves the healed*

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<sup>6</sup> A robust shared identity aligns with the government's "Ndi Umunyarwanda" program, forming a solid foundation for healing, reconciliation, and peacebuilding.

*person with a sense of responsibility to repair relationships with other people, including those who are the sources of his/her emotional pains. (KI, MHPSS and peacebuilding expert, interviewed on June 30th, 2023)*

**The assessment suggests the following facets of effective peacebuilding programs which integrate MHPSS.**

**1. Access to context-specific, culturally sensitive MHPSS and related services:** MHPSS services that are based on community understandings of mental health, taking into account different, whether individualized medical MHPSS services or community-based therapeutic groups. MHPSS needs to be accompanied by other health and social services, including survivors of sexual violence, people living with disabilities etc.

**2. Increased economic opportunities:** Supporting active economic participation economic security and independence to support individual mental health and benefit the wider community.

**3. Safe spaces for dialogue, with consideration of intergenerational dialogue:** Sustaining spaces for positive interaction improves trust, community ties and group solidarity. Such spaces provide rare opportunities to discuss taboo subjects and engage with other social groups and across generations.

**4. Community sensitization on mental health:** Conducting outreach and sensitisation on mental health to combat stigma and stereotypes which can create barriers for seeking help.

**5. Redress for past violence, such as legal assistance for survivors of violence:** Integration of contextually appropriate access to justice (formal and restorative), legal assistance and remedy. This could involve partnerships with justice organizations, referral etc. Such support would need to be provided sensitively given different perceptions on seeking legal help.

**6. Peaceful resolution of disputes and non-violent communication:** Provide capacity development on skills for mediation, non-violent communication, and conflict management to help establish a locally grown network of champions to signpost and support the provision of informal services.

**7. Address negative gender norms which increase psychological distress:** Approaches tailored to the diverse needs of different men and women based on their experiences and perceptions of mental health and wellbeing, violence and access to support services.

As a lessons, the key success of this integration lies on local ownership & partnerships (incl. with local authorities, community peacebuilding groups, MHPSS service providers) – supporting locally grown approaches and strengthening institutional capacities for MHPSS and peacebuilding services through promoting local ownership and partnerships.

This assessment suggests also required environut conditions for success MHPSS integration

<b>Required Environmental Conditions</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Post-Genocide Healing and Reconciliation:</b> Environmental conditions should promote open dialogue and trust-building between survivors and former perpetrators, crucial for lasting peace.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Community Ownership and Participation:</b> Environmental conditions should promote community ownership and active participation in the design and implementation of MHPSS interventions. Engaging communities empowers them to take control of their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Psychosocial Support Infrastructure:</b> Developing a robust psychosocial support infrastructure is vital. This includes accessible mental health services, trained professionals, and community-based initiatives. Establishing such an infrastructure necessitates further investment in healthcare, training, and capacity building.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Trauma-Informed Approaches:</b> Recognizing trauma's impact is crucial. The environment should encourage trauma-informed practices and “healing-centered engagements” across sectors, ensuring sensitivity to survivors' needs.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Youth Engagement:</b> Engaging Rwanda's youth, who didn't experience the genocide directly, is vital for discussions on trauma, reconciliation, and peacebuilding.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Cross-Sectoral Collaboration:</b> Collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international partners is essential. The environmental conditions should facilitate coordination and knowledge sharing to maximize the impact of MHPSS initiatives.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Long-Term Commitment:</b> Sustainable peace and healing in post-genocide Rwanda require a long-term commitment to mental health and psychosocial support. Environmental conditions should foster this commitment, emphasizing the importance of ongoing support rather than short-term interventions.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Research on Effectiveness:</b> Rigorous research is needed to assess the effectiveness of various MHPSS interventions in the Rwandan context. This includes examining how different approaches contribute to reconciliation and sustainable peace.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Cultural Sensitivity:</b> Environmental conditions should prioritize cultural sensitivity. Recognizing and respecting Rwandan cultural practices and living conditions is essential for the success of MHPSS programs.



## Monitoring and evaluation

Urumuri is a widely implemented project and requires systematic monitoring activities. This year, the project did the following activities to ensure that the project is effectively being implemented: bi-weekly project updates, monthly reports, and quarterly reports. The project also conducted on regular basis different project coordination meetings bringing together International Alert and the implementing partner, ARCT-Ruhuka. In addition to this, under the partnership with MINUBUMWE, various technical meetings were convened to discuss strategic ways to implement and speed up the agreed course of activities. Finally, the project has consistently conducted data quality assurance exercises to track how project data are collected, recorded, and reported as required.

## Challenges, lessons learnt and opportunities.

- **Low participation of men:** Despite extensive awareness-raising efforts, we observed that the majority of participants were women. Men seem less inclined to join these groups, influenced either by traditional gender norms like "amarira y'umugabo atemba ajya munda" (men's tears roll into their guts) or a perception that activities lacking financial benefits are not worthwhile.
  - Mitigation strategy: *To address this, the program aims to involve the husbands of participating women initially, to demonstrate the benefits of these groups. Furthermore, to establish an environment that might encourage greater openness, the program will provide the option of forming homogenous groups and locations geographically ideal to them.*
- **Low participation in urban areas:** Engaging participants in urban environments, where life is fast-paced and busy, poses significant challenges.
  - Mitigation strategy: *It was recommended to involve them through faith-based organizations, and to dedicate one session per month to dialogue/therapy and the other to economic activities. Additionally, the program will prioritize reaching out to young people, considering that the increasing rates of drug and alcohol use in this demographic might indicate underlying untreated transgenerational trauma.*
- **Low participation of ex-prisoners:** Encouraging the participation of ex-genocidaires in therapy groups proves to be a challenging and energy-intensive task, unless the facilitator belongs to the same category. It is imperative to coordinate closely with institutions involved in pre-release activities to help raise awareness among these individuals about the challenges that await them at their return and the support they can access post-incarceration.
  - Mitigation strategy: *In collaboration with MINUBUMWE, the activity is also planning to contribute to half-way reintegration activities which will help them to integrate and increase their trust in therapy and dialogue groups.*

- **Low expenditure rate:** USAID has expressed its concerns with regards to the low rate of expenditure, which is not at the level expected at this stage of the project. This can be explained by two factors:

1. Intensive activity during project inception phase of project modified form 9made in January 2023. The expansion from 30 sectors initially planned to 60, involved working with local authorities to identify relevant sectors and cells, recruiting additional field officers, identifying new facilitators, and training them, and establishing new field offices, among other tasks. This intensive operation occupied the first and second quarters of the year and incurred expenses mainly related to staff, local travel and capacity building of new community facilitators and new field officers. The project captured up delayed time during the fourth quarter of the year and has witnessed a significant uptick in expenses due to the scheduled awareness campaigns and other capacity building activities.

Slow paced collaboration with MINIBUMWE: The partnership with MINUBUMWE started in a critical period (April-June) where the ministry was primarily focusing on the commemoration events about the genocide against Tutsi and closing the fiscal year, which considerably slowed down our joint efforts. Nevertheless, we had productive meetings which allowed to produce the guidelines for social cohesion, social cohesion, and social reintegration of former genocidaires. In addition, the mapping of actors who will implement these guidelines was kicked and a working group of partners working on reintegration of genocide prisoners was established and programme document that will orient the reintegration of genocide perpetrators in pipeline process. Despite this challenge, we have observed a genuine willingness on their part to collaborate. To streamline our joint efforts, we have agreed to take the lead in overseeing the progress of our activities, while still respecting their right to provide oversight.

### **Lesson learnt and opportunities.**

- *Improving social cohesion is not always a linear process:* Despite the challenges faced, the project also learned some lessons especially in relation to the process of social cohesion. In fact, following the underachievement of the number of therapy groups in urban areas, and the adaptation to implement psychosocial support services in parallel with economic activities, it was learnt that improving social cohesion is not always a linear process and requires context-based adaptation and the right timing for the integration of each pre-determined intervention.
- *Carrying out the selection of community facilitators during community assemblies reduces their dropouts:* In response to challenges faced with dropouts among community facilitators, due to various factors such as relocation and monetary motivation, the project has learned that the selection of these facilitators should ideally be carried out within community assemblies or similar meetings with grassroots opinion leaders. This

helps to ensure that selected individuals are stable and committed to serve the project within its constraints.

- *Allowing early integration of joint economic activities motivate the participation in urban settings:* Urban areas present a challenge for establishing and maintaining groups that are not focused on income generation. Therefore, it is necessary to craft various forms of contact which incorporate opportunities to initiate economic activities in parallel with therapy groups and/or forums. However, close monitoring is essential to prevent economic interests from overshadowing the ultimate goals of healing and fostering social cohesion.
- **Allowing homogenous group setting enables the project adaptation in wounds torn context:** For instance, when over 1,200 victim bodies were recovered in the Rusizi District, Gashonga Sector, it caused deep emotional disturbances among the genocide survivors and discouraged participation in the project. As an adaptation, the project planned to create homogeneous groups, which will later be mixed after they have developed confidence to interact with others who have different historical backgrounds.

### Opportunities

The reviving of district and sector Unity and resilience forums, (formerly known as unity and reconciliation forum) will allow the project sustainability as these are community-based opinion leaders under MINUBUMWE, whom the project will be engaging on the guideline developed in partnership with MINUBUMWE.

### Action plan Q1FY24

Activities	Description	Target	Responsible	Q1FY24		
				Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b><i>Outcome One: Historical wounds inclusive of intergenerational trauma are healed</i></b>						
Act 1.1 Train psychosocial facilitators on trauma healing and develop training manual	Improve trauma healing facilitator guide and screening protocols	1	ARCT & Alert			
	Validation of improved trauma healing facilitators' guide and refresher for Project Staff	15	ARCT & Alert			

Activities	Description	Target	Responsible	Q1FY24		
				Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Act 1.2 Create and facilitate Urumuri therapy groups	Create Urumuri therapy groups in target schools	120	ARCT			
	Facilitate Urumuri therapy session sin target communities and schools	2795	ARCT			
Act 1.4 Produce audio recording clips, a documentary film, periodic radio broadcasts show	Produce and broadcast Shirimpumu drama episodes	13	Alert			
Act 1.5 Clinical supervision	Hold clinical supervisions with community facilitators	1	ARCT			
<b><i>Outcome Two: Capacities and self-confidence of key actors including local leaders, teachers, FBOs leaders are reinforced to critically dialogue on key conflict drivers</i></b>						
Act 2.1 Train more 270 community and school facilitators on conflict transformation, mediation, and dialogue	Train new community facilitators	150	International Alert			
Act 2.2 Train faith-based leaders on reconciliation using religious concepts and create unity clubs within their churches	Support FBOs' initiatives within their churches related to unity and resilience	2	Alert			
	Hold annual coordination meetings with FBOs leaders per province/ project zone	150	Alert			
Act 2.3 Hold Unity (reconciliation) dialogue	Create unity (reconciliation)	39	ARCT			

Activities	Description	Target	Responsible	Q1FY24		
				Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
sessions and support Rwandans to forgive and reconcile with their former adversaries	dialogues					
	Hold reconciliation dialogue sessions	1684	ARCT			
Activity 2.5. Hold one day engagement sessions with districts Executive Committee on 'livelihood for peace'.	Engage districts executive committees from Northern Province	30				
Act 2.6 Provide support to district level youth selfless initiatives to boost joint initiatives for reconciliation	Assess district level youth groups	30	Alert & ARCT			
	Provide support to district level joint youth selfless initiatives to boost joint initiatives for reconciliation	30	Alert & ARCT			
Act 2.7 Facilitate and support joint socio-economic activities for livelihood improvement and trust building	Assess and support project groups with joint-economic activities/VSLA	30	Alert & ARCT			
<b>Outcome Three: Assist MINUBUMWE to successfully lead and manage the reintegration and reconciliation of former genocidaires and avert or mitigate instability attributable to former genocidaires.</b>						
Act 3.1 Assist MINUBUMWE to establish and implement policy, processes, and regulatory frameworks for the release and reintegration of genocidaires	Finalize the elaboration process of social healing, social cohesion, and social reintegration guidelines and monitoring and associated monitoring and evaluation	1	Alert & MINUBUMWE			

Activities	Description	Target	Responsible	Q1FY24		
				Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	framework.					
Act 3.2 Support MINUBUMWE's leadership role in reintegrating genocidaires	Organize awareness campaign meetings with key stakeholders to promote key elements of the guidelines as they related challenges affecting unity and resilience	N/A				
	Actual dissemination of the guidelines	5 (1 session/ province)				
	Conduct capacity assessment of community-based actors and government institutions responsible for social healing, social cohesion, and social reintegration.	1	Alert & MINUBUMWE			
	Support MINUBUMWE to establish/design and implement unity-oriented reintegration program for convicts of genocide crimes to be released	N/A	Alert & MINUBUMWE			
<b><i>Outcome Four: Information generated from this intervention is used to influence high level decision-making regarding reconciliation</i></b>						
Act 4.3 Use feedback from community	Conduct structured project context analysis					

Activities	Description	Target	Responsible	Q1FY24		
				Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
participants to advocate MINUBUMWE for reforms.	and learning and draw recommendations for advocacy					
<b>Monitoring and evaluation</b>						
	Regular project monitoring, visits and DQA		International Alert			
	Conduct quarterly coordination meeting with ARCT&MINUBUMWE					

## Conclusion

This annual report shows an important progress impact that Urumuri project is having on the peacebuilding process by healing both adult and younger generation's emotional pains resulted from different historical experiences, ensuring that the genocidal traumas do not fuel social effects such as resentments, hate, or revenge against peers or others with different historical backgrounds. The different activities implemented, specially created community spaces the communities arouse psychological wellbeing, mutual solidarity and trust which reveal the importance of community-led, context-specific, and inclusive peacebuilding intervention, thus fostering reconciliation, understanding, and cooperation among diverse social categories of the Rwandan communities. However, the project has also identified gaps in progress especially delayed activities due to different challenges which the project committed to address as of the start of the next fiscal year.

## Annexes

### Annex 1: Success story

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## The gift of forgiveness

### *The story of Faustin Kazimbaya and Alphonsine from Rulindo District*

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Faustin had lived in Rulindo his whole life. This vibrant and picturesque Rwandan district in the northern part of the country is home to some excellent tea and famous for the production of a special type of vegetable called passion fruit squash.

Faustin was a prominent member of the community. In the early '90s, he started being more involved in local politics, a move that brought him closer to the ideology that would ultimately lead to the horrendous Genocide Against the Tutsi in 1994. To go a step further, Faustin joined the ruling political party, and started spreading hatred towards his Tutsi neighbours. In time, he became one of the key figures in mobilization and information gathering efforts.

“Just before 1994, I had the power to do whatever I wanted during mobilization. In fact, I could torture the so called "ibitso" (accomplices or collaborators in Kinyarwanda) of Rwandan Patriotic Front Army (RPA) rebel movement. As Tutsis, they were always considered as accomplices of RPF, and that was justification enough for us to target them,” he recalls.

At the start of the genocide in April 1994, Faustin wasted no time rallying the Hutu community to engage in the killings of Tutsis. He personally orchestrated numerous attacks, including one that claimed the lives of family members of his neighbor Alphonsine.

After the genocide, Faustin Kazimbaya faced justice. He was found guilty of genocide-related crimes and sentenced to 19 years in prison. Upon release, he returned to his native Rulindo hoping to rebuild his life. His past weighed heavily on him, and reintegration was almost impossible. Wherever he looked, he was reminded of his crimes.

He decided to focus on agriculture in his village, joining a larger group of farmers working together in a cooperative. He soon became one of the leading voices in the group. It wasn't long before he found himself working alongside Alphonsine, another prominent leader in the village. They knew each other well, and they both vividly remembered Faustin's crimes. With every look and every word, hatred escalated. The history of pain and suffering made it impossible for them to even speak to each other, and the village agricultural initiative started to suffer because of this. Nobody saw a way out: the hatred was huge and obvious, and the wounds so sensitive that it seemed impossible to even attempt to discuss the past. Years were flying by, with trauma locked in an impasse.



A ray of hope shone through when, in early 2023, a USAID-funded project called "Dufatanye Urumuri" came to the village where Alphonsine and Faustin lived. Urumuri, meaning "light" in Kinyarwanda, offered group therapy sessions to support Rwandans across the country in using dialogue and professional help to overcome trauma and heal the wounds from the genocide.

Alphonsine felt that she needed help if she was ever to move on from her traumatic past. She immediately joined the group and started attending the therapy sessions. Faustin hesitated. For many reasons, it took a while for him to join the Urumuri therapy group. Once he joined, he found himself in the same group with Alphonsine.

Working through trauma is a painful process. At first, Faustin struggled to express the depths of his remorse and guilt. However, as therapy sessions continued, his heart began to open. He gradually started sharing the gruesome details of his actions during the genocide.

The therapy group became a safe space, where participants would talk through fears and shame together. Encouraged by others who sought forgiveness, one day Faustin finally mustered the courage to speak his truth and admitted to being one of the killers of Alphonsine's family members. In response, Alphonsine made a simple request: she wanted to know where the bodies of her loved ones were.

Faustin agreed and took Alphonsine to the site where the remains of her family members were left years ago. With the help of family and friends, Alphonsine's family members' remains were given a dignified burial at the local genocide memorial site. This act of closure brought solace to Alphonsine. She was able to leave the traumatic past behind her, and make what many would call an impossible choice: to forgive.

"I forgave him because I needed peace of mind," explains Alphonsine. "Before forgiving Faustin, I lived in the past, haunted by memories of the genocide. This was affecting me in so many ways, not just mentally, it was truly hindering my life. For instance, I almost avoided joining the agriculture group we were both elected to lead. When Faustin showed me where my family members were buried, I found relief. Now, I sleep well, walk freely, and let my children play with anyone, including Faustin's family."

The reconciliation of Alphonsine and Faustin marked a turning point in the community. Moving slowly away from the legacy of hatred and fear, they could sit together, have a conversation, work together, and even offer support to each other. After years of feeling isolated, Faustin was able to walk in his village free of the weight of his past crimes.

Today, both Alphonsine and Faustine are active members of the Urumuri therapy group, which has become popular in their village. Their story of reconciliation has inspired many others to join the group and work through their trauma. Together, they promote social cohesion, unity, and resilience, aiming to make these values a reality for everyone in their community.

In Rwanda, USAID supports several interventions aimed at reconciliation and trauma healing. To learn more about the programs, head over to our [Democracy and Governance](#) page. To read more inspiring stories about the impact of our work, please see the [Stories](#) section.

**ANNEX 2: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING MATRIX**

Result	F-indicators	C-indicators	New indicators proposed by DC	Indicator definition	Baseline Data	Year one Target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three Target	Year three Achievement	Year four Target	Year five Target	Initial End of project Target	Updated End of project target after baseline	Disaggregation	Data collection	Data sources	Responsible	Frequency	Observation
<b>Project Goal:</b> To improve social cohesion by strengthening the inclusive unity and resilience process in Rwanda		% Of participants who report increased sense of shared identity disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.		Shared identity refers to a set of people who view each other as members of a common community of project support	94%							97%	96%	97%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Social cohesion index	Evaluation reports (Baseline, end line), and end of project report	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At baseline and endline evaluations	
			% of the target population that believes the narrative of "us vs. them" has/has not changed for the better disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Under this indicator we will be looking how People agreeing on the Ndi Umyurwanda concept. Changed for better refers to improvement in social cohabitation among individuals from different groups affected by the genocide thanks to Ndi Umunyarwanda concepts.	TBD						80%	85%	n/a	85%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs	Evaluation reports (endline evaluation report)	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At endline evaluations	
<b>Specific Objective:</b> To improve unity, resilience, and social cohesion efforts through healing of historical wounds and facilitation of open and inclusive dialogue on contemporary sensitive issues in communities, secondary and high schools, universities, civil society forums in 30 districts as well as at the national level		% Of participants reporting improved self-efficacy to impact positive changes in community		self-efficacy is "the belief in one's capabilities to organize and execute the courses of action required to manage prospective situations and capability to resist negative influence." or attitudes towards peaceful conflict	66%				75%	88.95% (88.6% of 102 males respondents and 89.3% of 210 females respondents) Total N= 312		83%	80%	83%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs and Key Informant Interviews/KIs at baseline and endline evaluations	Evaluation reports (Baseline, endline), end of project report.	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At baseline, mid-term, endline evaluations	Target was achieved

Result	F-indicators	C-indicators	New indicators proposed by DC	Indicator definition	Baseline Data	Year one Target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three Target	Year three Achievement	Year four Target	Year five Target	Initial End ofproject Target	Updated End ofproject target after baseline	Disaggregation	Data collection	Data sources	Responsible	Frequency	Observation
				resolution approaches																
		Number of peacebuilding initiatives undertaken jointly by supported. diverse participants		At this level Peacebuilding initiatives are any actions or initiatives established and undertaken by participants to project from diverse groups at community level with intent of peacebuilding, reconciliation, building social cohesion and resilience.	0				20	42	70	30	45	120	Actions by districts of interventions	Observations, outcome harvesting, and witnesses recorded with radio and TV clips at evaluations and activity monitoring	Evaluation reports (Baseline, endline), end of project reports as well as outcome harvesting workshop reports	Project Manager, M&E Manager, Partner Field Staff	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually	The reported number under this indicator, are Joint economic initiatives undertaken by project group members.
			Number of project beneficiaries who have forgiven or reconciled with their former adversaries as results of urumuri project	Under this indicator forgiveness or reconciliation will refers to remembering, not forgetting, the unjust act but that remembrance is experienced without bitterness to adversaries.	0				10	133	10	10	n/a	30	Sex, districts, and social categories affected by historical wounds and genocide against Tutsi.	FGDs and Report review at annual basis	Activity report and annual assessment	Project Manager, M&E Manager	Annual basis	Under this indicator we overreached the targeted number this is due to the fact that during target setting we were considering reporting number of cases, however during implementation we found out that reporting only cases will not captured all achievements under this indicator that why instead of reporting cases we reported # of beneficiaries who have forgiven or reconciled with their former adversaries. The revised target will be reflected in FY2024 MEL plan.
Outcome I: Historical wounds inclusive of intergenerational trauma are healed.		I.a. % participants reporting decrease in instances of traumatic symptoms		Instances of traumatic symptoms for people affected by genocide are determined and defined by trained counselors and community with support from ARCT Ruhuka	65.8%		70%	72.6% (68.9% male and 76.3% female) N:170	80%	83.7% (81.6% of 102 males respondents and 85.8% of 210 females respondents) Total N= 312	85%	87%	85%	87%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs, EPI, and KIIs at baseline and endline evaluations as well as e-indicator tracking system at activity monitoring	Evaluation reports (Baseline, end line), National Mental Health Survey, Project Activity Reports and National Annual Mental Health Database	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually (Assessment)	Target was achieved
		I.b. % of participants from diverse groups (f/m and youth) reporting positive inter-		Inter-group interactions refer. to interactions between individuals from	81%		83%	94.6%	96%	95.8% (96.7% of 102 males respondents and	97%	97.5%	90%	97.5%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, Community Diversity Audience Tool, and KIIs at	Evaluation reports (Baseline, end line), Community Diversity Audience	Project Manager, M&E Manager and Partner Field Staff	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually	Target was almost achieved

Result	F-indicators	C-indicators	New indicators proposed by DC	Indicator definition	Baseline Data	Year one Target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three Target	Year three Achievement	Year four Target	Year five Target	Initial End ofproject Target	Updated End ofproject target after baseline	Disaggregation	Data collection	Data sources	Responsible	Frequency	Observation
Outcome I: Historical wounds inclusive of intergenerational trauma are healed		group interactions		different groups affected by the genocide						94.9% of 210 females respondents) Total N= 312						baseline and endline evaluations as well as e-indicator tracking system at activity monitoring	Database enclosed in Project Activity Reports			
		GNDR-6 Number Of people reached by a USG funded intervention providing GBV services (e.g., health, legal, psycho-social counseling, shelters, hotlines, other)		This indicator is a count of the individuals served by GBV services. Gender-based violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females.	134		400	334 (69% women)	600	261 (77% women)	500	200	1200	1700	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey and therapy groups attendance	Evaluation reports, therapy sessions reports	Project Manager, M&E manager	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually Tracked at Quarterly basis and data reported in DIS at annual basis	The underachievement was due to delays in creating therapy groups in new sectors and graduation processes in existing sectors, which limited the time for community facilitators to offer services.
		% of people reporting that the GBV services/psycho-social counselling support received has improved their wellbeing		Gender-based Violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females.	N/A				80%	82.45% of 25 males respondents and 78.07% of 89 females respondents) Total N= 114	80%	80%	N/A	80%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs with project participants	Evaluation/annual assessment reports, therapy sessions reports	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually	Target was achieved
		% of supported participants reporting increased psychosocial resilience (Resilience Index)		Psychosocial resilience will refer to respondents who had wounds but have gained psychological capacities to cope with	47%		50%	45.8%	60%	65.95% (65.1% of 102 males respondents and 66.8% of 210 females responden	70%	75%	N/A	75%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs with project participants	Evaluation/annual assessment reports,	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually	Target was achieved

Result	F- indicators	C-indicators	New indicators proposed by DC	Indicator definition	Baseline Data	Year one Target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three Target	Year three Achievement	Year four Target	Year five Target	Initial End ofproject Target	Updated End ofproject target after baseline	Disaggregation	Data collection	Data sources	Responsible	Frequency	Observation
				trauma						ts) Total N= 312										
		% of supported citizens reporting increased individual readiness (comfort) to share sensitive personal stories within groups of diverse people		The readiness means the level of openness of respondents to share their personal stories with people of diverse backgrounds.	43%		50%	54.6%	65%	69.3% (68.4% of 102 males respondents and 70.3% of 210 females respondents) Total N= 312	70%	85%	N/A	85%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs with project participants	Evaluation/annual assessment reports,	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually	Target was achieved
Outcome 2: Capacities and self-confidence of key actors including local leaders, teachers, FBOs leaders are reinforced to critically dialogue on key conflict drivers.		2.a. Number of inclusive dialogue spaces created within communities, schools, FBOs and by local leaders		Inclusive dialogue spaces are heterogenous dialogue groups which host and include individuals from different groups affected by the genocide	20		150	0	300	261	360	0	300	660	Diverse groups affected by genocide against Tutsi per districts	Observation checklist, group (therapy and peace clubs) attendance and membership and emotional safety tracker at activity monitoring	Group attendance registers, project database, Project Activity Reports	Project Manager, Partner Field Staff	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually	The graduation processes caused the under achievement, the target will be achieved in the next quarter.
Outcome 2: Capacities and self-confidence of key actors including local leaders, teachers, FBOs leaders are reinforced to critically dialogue on key conflict drivers.	DR.3.1-2	Number of groups trained in conflict mediation/resolution skills or consensus-building techniques with USG assistance		“Groups” are entities (e.g. NGOs, government, women’s groups, political parties, civil society organizations, unions, employers, factions, media, or ethnic or marginalized groups) involved in, or planning to be involved in, conflict mediation or consensus-building processes. Training can be for any amount of time at a USG			120	53	67	31			120	153	Category/types Of groups and District	Survey, Training attendance tracking system at activity monitoring	Training attendance list, Training database and training pre-posttest.	Project Manager, Partner Field Staff	Tracked on Quarterly basis (Year two Q3 and Q4). And reported annually. in DIS.	Delays of the modification award led to delays of some activities contributing to this indicator that’s why 30 groups of community facilitators are not yet trained

Result	F-indicators	C-indicators	New indicators proposed by DC	Indicator definition	Baseline Data	Year one Target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three Target	Year three Achievement	Year four Target	Year five Target	Initial End ofproject Target	Updated End ofproject target after baseline	Disaggregation	Data collection	Data sources	Responsible	Frequency	Observation
Outcome 2: Capacities and self-confidence of key actors including local leaders, teachers, FBOs leaders are reinforced to critically dialogue on key conflict drivers.				sponsored event, workshop or seminar.																
		2.c. % of project participants reporting improved openness on sensitive conflict issues		Openness is the feeling of lack of restriction and feeling of frankness to talk about sensitive conflict issues	50.0%				55%	73.6% (71.2% of 102 males respondents and 76.1% of 210 females respondents) Total N= 312	NA	75%	60%	75%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs and KIIs at baseline and endline evaluations as well as critical event monitoring at monthly update of conflict sensitivity	Evaluation reports (Baseline, endline) and critical event monitoring findings	Project Manager, M&E manager and Partner Field Staff	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations	Target was achieved
			# of people in target area who report that they trust members from different historical background identity groups.	Trust will refer to societal tolerance. For example: The level of comfort with extending an invitation or being invited to a wedding from/by the different historical background identity groups.	44%				50%	55.4% (55.1% of 102 males respondents and 55.7% of 210 females respondents) Total N= 312	60%	75%	n/a	75%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs and KIIs at mid-term and endline evaluations	Evaluation reports (mid-term endline)	Project Manager, M&E manager and Partner Field Staff	At mid-term and endline evaluations	Target was achieved
			% of people in target areas who collaborate with members from different historical background identity groups.	Under this indicator collaboration will refer to the action of people from different historical background identity groups working together in harmony.	TBD						75%	80%	n/a	80%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs and KIIs at baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations	Evaluation reports (Baseline, mid-term endline)	Project Manager, M&E manager and Partner Field Staff	At mid-term and endline evaluations	
		2.d. Number of actionable recommendations on sensitive conflict issues from reconciliation successes celebration events which inform the district reconciliation initiatives		Actionable recommendations should be evidence-based following scrutiny of learning practice data and approved by actors operating at district level	5		5	0	25	10	20	5	30	50	Types of Sensitive conflict issues per districts of interventions	Document review, and advocacy tracker at baseline and endline evaluations as well as observation checklist at activity monitoring	Evaluation reports (Baseline, endline) and observation findings enclosed in Project Activity Reports	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually	Although the project has recorded a lot of recommendation from different project activities, only ten were seen to be new and very relevant to Urumuri activity intervention.

Result	F- indicators	C-indicators	New indicators proposed by DC	Indicator definition	Baseline Data	Year one Target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three Target	Year three Achievement	Year four Target	Year five Target	Initial End ofproject Target	Updated End ofproject target after baseline	Disaggregation	Data collection	Data sources	Responsible	Frequency	Observation
	GDNR 10: Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance			This indicator is intended to capture the participation of local women in peacebuilding processes; to be counted in this indicator, women should be from the relevant conflict country. To the extent practicable, individuals should be counted only once per fiscal year under this indicator	TBD				100	149	100	100	N/A	300	By district	Document review, and advocacy tracker at baseline and endline evaluations as well as observation checklist at activity monitoring	Evaluation reports (Baseline, endline) and observation findings enclosed in Project Activity Reports	Project Manager, M&E Manager	Annually	Under this indicator we overreached the set target this is due to the fact that during target setting we projected to have at least 30% of women in new community facilitators however, after awareness done by project we managed to have 50% and this led to achieve 149 instead of 100.
		3.a. Percent of ex- genocide prisoners' participants who are law abiding, supported by community and self-sufficient after their release from prison		Law-abiding refers to participants who have not broken parole or had encounters with the law, while Self- sufficient means employed in a job above minimum wage and not reliant on assistance programs	0				576 (80%) out of 720	Not evaluated this time to be evaluated during mid-term evaluation.	612(85%) out of 720	NA	NA	1188 (82%) Out of 1440	Sex, age, districts	Survey, FGDs and KIIs Document review observation checklist at activity monitoring	Project Activity Reports Annual assessment report	Project Manager, Partner Field Staff	Annual Basis	Not evaluated this time to be evaluated during mid-term evaluation.
Outcome 3: MINUBUMWE's efforts to successfully lead and manage the reintegration and reconciliation of former genocidaires who are eligible for release and avert or mitigate instability attributable to former genocidaires are supported.		3.b Percent of ex- genocide prisoners' participants who are reunited with family members and live in harmony with them		Under this indicator reunited with family will refer to come together again with their family after they are released.	0				576 (80%) out of 720	Not evaluated this time to be evaluated during mid-term evaluation.	612(85%) out of 720	NA	NA	1188 (82%) Out of 1440	Sex, age, districts	Survey, FGDs and KIIs Document review	Project Activity Reports Annual assessment report	Project Manager, Partner Field Staff	Annual Basis	Not evaluated this time to be evaluated during mid-term evaluation.
		3.c. Percent of ex genocide prisoners' participants supported to reconcile with their counterpart's genocide survivors			0				432 (60%) out of 720	Not evaluated this time to be evaluated during mid-term evaluation.	504(70%) out of 720	NA	NA	936 (65%) Out of 1440	Sex, age, districts	Survey, FGDs and KIIs Document review	Project Activity Reports Annual assessment report	Project Manager, Partner Field Staff	Annual Basis	Not evaluated this time to be evaluated during mid-term evaluation.

Result	F- indicators	C-indicators	New indicators proposed by DC	Indicator definition	Baseline Data	Year one Target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three Target	Year three Achievement	Year four Target	Year five Target	Initial End ofproject Target	Updated End ofproject target after baseline	Disaggregation	Data collection	Data sources	Responsible	Frequency	Observation
Outcome 4: Information generated from this intervention is used to influence high level decision-making in regarding unity, resilience, and social cohesion			% of participants (i.e. ex genocidaires) who say they feel welcome in their communities/society	Under this indicator feel welcome will refer to feel happy and accepted in in their communities/society	TB						70%	75%	n/a	75%	disaggregated by sex, age, region, group/category, disability.	Survey, FGDs and KIIs Document review	Survey, FGDs and KIIs at baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations	Project Manager, Partner Field Staff		
			# of public gatherings in which members of different social groups (i.e. ex-genocidaires and genocide survivors) participate	Public gathering means a public meeting, a public procession, and any other meeting, gathering or concourse of ten or more persons in any public place in community.	TB				30	Not evaluated this time to be evaluated during mid-term evaluation.	100	50	n/a	180	Types of gathering	Regular monitoring visits via Output tracker	Activity reports	Project Manager, Partner Field Staff	Quarterly basis	Not evaluated this time to be evaluated during mid-term evaluation.
		4.a. Number of actionable recommendations on sensitive conflict issues acted upon by actors and districts of support		Actionable recommendations should be evidence-based following scrutiny of learning practice data on sensitive conflict issues and implemented by actors operating at district level	0				5	0	10	15	30	30	Types of sensitive conflict issues per districts of interventions	Advocacy tracker at baseline and endline evaluations and post-advocacy follow-up at activity monitoring	Evaluation reports (Baseline, end line) and post-advocacy follow-up findings enclosed in Project Activity Reports	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually Semi-annually	The process is on going
Outcome 4: Information generated from this intervention is used to influence high level decision-making in regarding unity, resilience, and social cohesion.	DR.4.2-2 Number of civil society organizations (CSOs) receiving USG Assistance engaged in advocacy interventions.			Advocacy should be understood as a means for individuals, constituencies, or organizations to shape public agendas, change public policies, and influence other processes that impact their lives.	0				25	30	25	10	50	60		Advocacy tracker at baseline and endline evaluations and post-advocacy follow-up at activity monitoring	Evaluation reports (Baseline, end line) and post-advocacy follow-up findings enclosed in Project Activity Reports	Project Manager, M&E Manager	At baseline, mid-term and endline evaluations Annually Semi-annually	Target achieved

Output	Indicator	Year one target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three target	Year 3 achievement	Year four target	Year five Target	End of project target	Year three achievements								Actual achievements (cumulative)	Observation
										Q1: Oct-Dec 2022		Q2: Jan-Mar 2023		Q3: Apr-Jun 2023		Q4: Jul-Sep 2023			
										Targets	Achieved	Targets	Achieved	Targets	Achieved	Targets	Achieved		



<b>Output 1.1:</b> Psychosocial support guideline produced	# Of Psychosocial support guideline produced	1							1										1	Target achieved
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Community facilitators are identified and trained	# Of community facilitators selected		150	150	270	270			420			270	0	150	151	120	120	421		Target achieved. 1 additional CF was a replacement from Kicukiro district in the existing sector.
	# Of Community facilitators trained		150	150	270	270			420					150	151	120	120	421		During the training of new facilitators ,1 additional CF was a replacement from Kicukiro district in the existing sector.
<b>Output 1.3:</b> Community therapy groups for created and therapy sessions conducted	# Of therapy groups created		270	243	357	373	60		660	57	13	44	18			300	342	616		The target was achieved. in new sectors, more than 10 groups were created. This is one of the reasons why we now have 16 additional therapy groups.
	# Therapy sessions held		2000	1824	3514	2470	3120		6834	1536	1182	514	184	262	83	1200	1021	4294		During the reporting period the target was not achieved because most of groups were created in new sectors from July 2023 and in existing sectors groups were transitioning to forums dialogues.
	Average # Of peoplewho attend therapy sessions		2754	2731	6120	4,352	3672		6732	2611	2538	1591	569	449	883	3060	4,352	4,352		During the reporting period the target was not achieved because most of groups were created in new sectors from July 2023 and in existing sectors groups were transitioning to forums dialogues
	Participation rate of people who attend therapy sessions		85%	85%	85%	88.2%	85%		85%	85%	85%	85%	86%	85%	88.2%	85%	88.2%	n/a		

Output	Indicator	Year one target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three target	Year three achievement	Year four target	Year five Target	End of project target	Year three achievements								Actual achievements (cumulative)	Observation
										Q1: Oct-Dec 2022		Q2: Jan-Mar 2023		Q3: Apr-Jun 2023		Q4: Jul-Sep 2023			
										Targets	Achieved	Targets	Achieved	Targets	Achieved	Targets	Achieved		
Output 1.4: Psychosocial awareness campaigns conducted	# Of Psychosocial awareness campaigns conducted		90	0	30	31			30					5	0	25	31	31	Target achieved. the 1 more awareness campaign was conducted in Rulindo cluster.
	# Of community members reached out through psychosocial campaigns		50,000	0	9000	13,437			9000					1500	0	7500	13,437	13,437	The target was overachieved due to the involvement of community leaders in endorsing and participating in psychosocial campaigns, which encouraged more community members to join.
Output 1.5	# Periodic radio recordings on reconciliation aired		36	37	48	48	48	24	156	12	13	12	13	12	13	12	12	85	The target was achieved
Output 1.6 Clinical supervision to community facilitators are held	# Of quarterly clinical supervision done		3	3	4	4	4	3	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	The target was achieved
	# Community facilitator who attended quarterly clinical		150	136	300	300	420	420	420	150	146	150	146	150	128	300	300	300	The targeted people here are CFs and are the same in each Q, that why end project target is not the sum of each year target.

	supervision																			
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Community facilitators trained on conflict transformation (They are the same trained on trauma healing)	# Conflict Transformation Modules adapted		1	1					1									1		Target achieved
	# Community facilitators trained on conflict transformation		150	147			270		420									147		
<b>Output 2.2:</b> Faith based organization's leaders are trained on unity ,resilience and social cohesion	# Faith-based organization's leaders are trained on unity ,resilience and social cohesion				150	120			150	75	65	75	55					120		
	# of FBOs' initiatives supported				5	1	5		10							5	1	1		

<b>Output 2.3:</b> Urumuri unity dialogues forums created	# Urumuri unity dialogues forums created				300	261	360		660	131	131	112	62	57	0	106	68	261	The target was not achieved due to delays in transitioning to forums, CFs put more effort in strengthening the forums already created. The target will be achieved in Q1FY4.
Output	Indicator	Year one target	Year two Target	Year Two Achievement	Year three target	Year three achievement	Year four target	Year five Target	End of project target	Year three achievements								Actual achievements (cumulative)	Observation
										Q1: Oct-Dec 2022		Q2: Jan-Mar 2023		Q3: Apr-Jun 2023		Q4: Jul-Sep 2023			
										Targets	Achieved	Targets	Achieved	Targets	Achieved	Targets	Achieved		
# monthly community dialogue sessions conducted					4500	4,205	12360	7920	24780			1234	958	1466	958	1800	2289	4,205	The target was not achieved due to the delay in recruiting people who will join the groups. Target will be achieved in Q1FY4
Average # of people attending monthly community dialogue sessions cumulatively					7650	6,896	16,830	16,830	16,830			6,197	2,747	6,197	2778	7650	6,896	6,896	The target was not achieved due to the delay in recruiting people who will join the groups. Target will be achieved in Q1FY4
Participation rate of people attending community dialogue					85%	87.7%	85%	85%	85%			85%	n/a	85%	n/a	85%	87.7%	n/a	
# Of community facilitators lead reconciliation					150	150	420	420	420			150	146	150	128	150	150	150	All facilitators in the existing sectors lead the reconciliation dialogue.

	n dialogues																			
<b>Output 2.4:</b> Unity and resilience success celebration events held bringing together districts for learning	# Reconciliation successes celebration events are held				30	5	30	30	90	5	2	10	0	5	0	10	3	5		Target was not achieved; the remaining events will be conducted next year.
	# of participant attended reconciliation successes celebration events				900	450	900	900	2700	150	500	300	0	150	0	300	450	450		Target was not achieved, the remaining events will be conducted next year
<b>Output 2.5:</b> Districts officials are trained on livelihood for peace	# Of district officials trained on livelihood for peace		150	109	35	35			150			35	35						144	
	# Of recommendations from districts				5	2	5		10										2	The 2 recommendations still need further advocacy for adoption.



<b>Output 2.8:</b> Reconciliation or bridge building actions initiated by project participants.	# of reconciliation or bridge building actions initiated by project participants		10	16	150	317	150	50	360									333	In year three after expansion, selfless activities undertaken by project group members were considered under this indicator.
<b>Output 3.1:</b> Policy, and regulatory frameworks for the release and reintegration of genocidaires developed.	# Policy, process and regulatory frameworks for the release and reintegration of genocidaires established						1		1									0	
	# of produced assessment reports on reintegration interventions/mechanisms through a community healing, social cohesion, resilience.							1	1										





	# of conducted dialogues at different levels to discuss and raise the awareness on challenges affecting unity and resilience						30 (1 per district)		30 (1 per district)										
	# people reached by the non-custodial community-based programme				835	0	2,348	755	3,938										
<b>Output 3.3:</b> Early warning and response mechanisms to avert or mitigate instability attributed to former genocidaires established	# of Early warning and response mechanisms to avert or mitigate instability established					0	1		1									0	
<b>Output 4.1:</b> Exchange learning workshops held	# Of exchange and learning workshops					1	1	1	2									1	The learning workshop was conducted earlier to respond to critical contextual dynamics that were rising in districts of Gatsibo, Ngoma and Burera. The workshop targeted the district unity and resilience forums, thus it was counted as one.

