

# LOCAL PEACE COMMITTEES IN BURUNDI

A Community-Led Peacebuilding Approach



Session 1: Local Peace Engagement: Forms and Functions  
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# Outline

- A. Overview of Burundi's Political, Economic, Cultural and Social Context
- B. Need for Local Peace Involvement in Burundi
- C. The Birth and Growth of MIPAREC as a Local Peacebuilding Institution
- D. Establishment of Local Peace Committees (LPCs)
- E. Challenges and Lessons Learned
- F. Recommendations

# A. Overview of Burundi's Context



# A. Overview of Burundi's Context



# B. Need For Local Peace Involvement in Burundi

Ethnic division and mistrust

Collective and personal trauma

Lack of space for dialogue, listening, and reconciliation

Weak State and national institutions

Elite-driven peace processes



# C. Establishment of Local Peace Committees (LPCs)



**KIBIMBA Local Peace Committee, first ever LPC established in 1994**

# D. Birth and Growth of MIPAREC as a Local Peacebuilding Institution



**VISION:** to build a peaceful, fair and prosperous society

**Mission:** to promote peace, community development and social cohesion through training activities, reconciliation and various peacebuilding related activities.

**More than 500 LPCs nationwide**

**13 Provinces  
36 communes**

**18,523  
Members**

**Composed of Hutus, Tutsis, and Twas and includes internally displaced persons, returnees, local authorities, religious leaders, ex-combatants, women, and youth**





**How are LPCs accepted in local communities?  
How do they ensure adequate participation  
by all stakeholders?**



**How do LPCs contribute to local peace?  
How do they prevent outbreaks of conflicts?**

# How are LPCs' efforts recognized at the national and international level?



# E. Challenges and Lessons Learned

## Challenges

- Declining international support due to political instability
- Absence of national infrastructure or top-down counterpart
- Increasing levels of poverty

## Lessons

- The more we empower community structures, the more we encourage ownership of local initiatives
- Women play a very important role in mediating conflicts
- Community sessions help discover hidden truths



# F. Recommendations

- Promote ownership of local peace processes
- Give opportunities to build local capacities and enhance peace education
- Seek safe spaces for sharing and listening to stories
- Push for police reforms and advocacies



Murakoze Cane!  
Asante Sana!  
Merci Beaucoup!  
Thank You Very Much!

