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
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- Historical
- Political
- Economic
- Social
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

How to maximize local mechanisms and positive cultural values to strengthen social cohesion?
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!