

Refugee Component

Supporting peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities

The challenge

The recurring rebel activities and violent atrocities against the local population in eastern Congo have led thousands of Congolese citizens to flee their homes and seek refuge in Rwanda. The population in Rwanda's six refugee camps more than doubled from 74,437 in December 2014 to 166,770 in February 2017, mainly due to the influx of Burundian refugees following the 2015 election crisis in that country.

As a result of the extraordinary times through which they are living, coupled with the need to adapt to a new environment, refugees face unexpected challenges and a number of vulnerabilities, such as insufficient resources and living space, restrictions on their rights, unemployment, violence, and conflicts with host communities.

Negotiating pathways to overcome these challenges motivates us to consider refugees both as beneficiaries and as partners. Capacity building and empowerment are essential if this consideration is to be matched by enabling refugees to take responsibility for their lives. Although basic needs such as food, shelter, health, sanitation, and education are being met, there are still significant gaps in providing psychosocial and mental health services, as well as community-based conflict resolution mechanisms.

Refugees and Rwandans live in close coexistence and often share the same infrastructure, while prejudice and mistrust exist on both sides. Against this backdrop, in cooperation with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) and UNHCR, GIZ/ZFD focuses its interventions on increasing social cohesion and violence prevention.

Project name	Promoting peaceful cohabitation through psychosocial support, peace education, and non-violent conflict resolution for refugees and host communities
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Rwanda
Lead executing agency	Civil Peace Service (ZFD) of GIZ
Duration	2014–2019

Our approach

The refugee project started in 2014 and is a component of the GIZ Rwanda Civil Peace Service program. Its two fields of activity contributing to SDG 16 are the following:

1. Peace education, capacity building, and conflict resolution
2. Psychosocial support

Working with its partner organisations UNHCR, Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle (VJN), Ejo Youth Echo (EYE) and Eglise Evangélique des Amis au Rwanda (EEAR), GIZ/ZFD builds on its proven experience in peacebuilding to strengthen a culture of peace amongst refugees and host communities with the aim of increasing social cohesion both within and outside refugee camps. In this vein, through the use of creative and interactive methods, such as conflict sensitive media production, Cineduc, forum theatre, and sports, youth practise constructive ways of dealing with conflicts, develop dialogue, and build mutual understanding. Additionally, GIZ/ZFD trains service providers and works



L. to r.: Kigeme refugee camp; Religious leaders decide to resolve their disputes



hans.bretschneider@giz.de

L. to r.: Participatory theatre; training in conflict-sensitive journalism

with refugee leaders on conflict resolution techniques and mechanisms. The Do–No–Harm approach is fundamental to framing these interventions.

In terms of the personnel involved in the GIZ/ZFD program, a team of three GIZ national staff and two international peace advisors support partner organizations' peacebuilding activities in the refugee component.

Impact

Based on key findings from two baseline studies and field visits, Kigeme refugee camp was selected as a pilot project for the GIZ/ZFD refugee component. Located in Nyamagabe District, Southern Province, Kigeme refugee camp currently hosts 19,492 Congolese refugees.

Since the beginning of the program in 2014:

- 30 young people from within and around Kigeme camp have been trained in conflict-sensitive journalism;
- The 30 trained youth have been producing a quarterly e-magazine distributed in all camps as an example of good practice;
- A short documentary on refugee and non-refugee life has been published;
- Between 200 and 300 young people from within and around Kigeme camp have benefited from peace related activities, such as participatory theatre, Cineduc, and sports for peace;
- 81 young refugees and Rwandan have been given a one year scholarship in vocational training ;

- 450 participants (refugee administrative and religious leaders, single mothers, and people living with disabilities) have been trained in conflict resolution;
- And 49 service providers have benefitted from different trainings, including nonviolent conflict resolution techniques, Do No Harm and conflict-sensitive communication.

Capacity development for local leaders and the community contributes to long-term peaceful co-existence and constructive reintegration of refugees in their country of origin.

Outlook

The 2016 strategic planning of psychosocial interventions was carried out on the basis of a detailed needs assessment. Related projects will promote social participation of traumatized populations in and around Kigeme Camp. Furthermore, the CPS program intends to expand peace education, conflict resolution, and psychosocial support activities to benefit other refugee populations in Rwanda.

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany Programme "Civil Peace Service (ZFD) in Rwanda" PO Box 59, Kigali, Rwanda T +250 252 573 537 F +250 252 572 439 E giz-ruanda@giz.de I http://www.giz.de/rwanda	On behalf of	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)		
As at	February 2017	Addresses of the BMZ offices	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstraße 4 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 (0)228 99 535-0 F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500</td> <td>BMZ Berlin Stresemannstraße 94 10963 Berlin, Germany T +49 (0)30 18 535-0 F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501</td> </tr> </table>	BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstraße 4 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 (0)228 99 535-0 F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500	BMZ Berlin Stresemannstraße 94 10963 Berlin, Germany T +49 (0)30 18 535-0 F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501
BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstraße 4 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 (0)228 99 535-0 F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500	BMZ Berlin Stresemannstraße 94 10963 Berlin, Germany T +49 (0)30 18 535-0 F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501				
Author	Hans Bretschneider		poststelle@bmz.bund.de www.bmz.de		

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.