

ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN PEACE BUILDING IN RWANDA



Achievements, Opportunities and Challenges

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Promotion and Development**

CONTEXT



- Rwanda ranked 163rd out of 172/ poverty, 90% pop. Subsistence farming , 60% below poverty line
- 52% of 8.13m under 18 years old
- High child mortality; 1 in 5 die before 5th birth day, Infant mortality 86per 1000 live births
- 45% of children under 5 suffer chronic mal and 19% severely malnourished



CONTEXT CONT.



- **Complex background:** genocide, war, HIV/AIDS compounded by chronic poverty
- 52% of total of population who are children under 18 (census 2002)
- **One of the highest OVC population in the world:** today 1,300,000
 - 30% of the total child population



NATIONAL STRATEGY



Family approach

- Community centred approach
- Specific policies
- Mainstreaming
- Participation
- Decentralisation
- Package of services
- Safety Networks



PARTICIPATION



Children participate through:

- **Annual Children Summit** Children discuss themes according to their own priorities.
- **Annual Paediatric conference** Children give their own views and recommendations
- **Children forums** where Children meet and discuss their rights.
- Children's involvement in the dvpt of the EDPRS

POLICIES

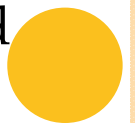


○ **Specialized Policies and Strategies** address OVC affected or not by HIV and AIDS

- National Policy on OVC (2003)
- National Strategic Plan for OVC 2007-2012, (2007)
- Defining Vulnerability criteria (2008)

○ **Highlighting OVC issue in** important policies, strategies, laws and decrees

- The National Health Policy and The Health Sector Strategic Plan, 2005-2009.
- Ensuring inheritance rights of children
- Economic Dvlpt & Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), and Vision 2020
- Ministerial Decree to ensure a family approach in ART and PMTCT



YOUTH CONTRIBUTION IN REBUILDING RWANDA.



- Human Rights awareness
 - Human Rights clubs in schools and communities
 - Community human Rights Education
 - Advocacy on Child Protection
- Reconciliation
 - Unity & Reconciliation clubs in schools
 - Peace and solidarity Camps
 - Peaceful means of conflict resolution
- Youth Empowerment through Debate
 - Creation of self expression Platforms
 - ❖ HIV and SHARE programs



CON'T

- **Socio- economic Empowerment**
 - Advocacy to establish a youth fund
 - Mobilization of resources to assist Ovc's
 - Formation of cooperatives,
 - Literacy
- **Promotion of democracy and civic education**
 - Radio programmes
 - Encourage young people to participate in decision making

OPPORTUNITIES



- Strong political Will for promotion of child rights
- National programs for children
- Gov't Agencies, NGOs , Youth associations, CBOs provide assistance to OVCs
- National Human Rights Commission & National Unity Reconciliation have child friendly programs
- EDPRS address needs of poor house holds
- Decentralized National youth council
- Presence of policies and legislations
- Young population



CHALLENGES



- Traumatized Society
- High Numbers of OVCs
- Extreme Levels of poverty
- Presence of Genocide Ideology
- High number of Prisoners
- Poor living conditions of survivors
- Ethnic complexity
- HIV/AIDS
- Affected international relations





RECONCILIATION IS NOT JUST ONE OF THE MANY OTHER OPTIONS FOR US RWANDESE, IT IS RATHER A NON-NEGOTIABLE OBLIGATION. AN OBLIGATION TO GIVE OURSELVES HOPE FOR OUR OLD AGE; AN OBLIGATION TO LEAVE TO OUR CHILDREN A BETTER RWANDA TO GROW AND LIVE IN."