



# RECOVI 2018 Annual Report



**REVEIL COMMUNAUTAIRE D'ASSISTANCE AUX VICTIMES**

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## **About RECOVI**

RECOVI was founded in Burundi in 2010 with a mission to effectively support victims of war and help revive communities. Once established, RECOVI quickly launched a community development program to counter armed violence, provide assistance to vulnerable groups, including former combatants (both male and female), street children, former child soldiers, and survivors of trauma and violence.

### **Mission:**

To build a better and more peaceful world in which poverty is reduced through local initiatives to assist victims of war.

### **Vision:**

An end to conflict, and the establishment of sustainable development beyond borders. Having been directly affected by armed conflict, and some RECOVI members being survivors of this conflict, to foster awareness of the link between and the mutual influences of different countries.

### **Our goals:**

The overall goals of RECOVI are to:

- Contribute to building a more peaceful world.
- Focus our efforts on the following areas: Coordination and assistance to victims (orphans, street children, female victims of war, etc.) in the following areas:
  - o Schooling for child victims
  - o Medical care, construction of orphanages
  - o Assistance to female victims of war
    - open and manage listening centres, family development centres, leisure and recreation centres, educational centres, and training in trades for unemployed youth.
  - o Promote entrepreneurial initiatives among the unemployed
  - o Work against armed violence, provide assistance to vulnerable groups

### **Activities Accomplished by RECOVI in 2018:**

RECOVI has focused its areas of intervention in areas such as financial empowerment, general health as well as sexual and reproductive health, assistance and supervision of children and other vulnerable individuals, countering armed violence, and Community Savings and Internal Credit (CECI)

Our activities in this latter area have focused on the supervision of young people in income-generating activities and the Community of Savings and Credit Internal (CECI). Noteworthy among these is the manufacture of building bricks in the Muramvya Province, Kiganda Commune, and Rutegama Commune.

Four ovens were built by the youth that RECOVI supervises; 50 in the Kanegwa zone and 40 in the Nyakararo zone. This has been carried out under our approach to training young people to cultivate entrepreneurial competence and job creation. The more the young people produce, the more they earn. For example, those in Kanegwa were able to make two kilns that produced 50,000 bricks through which they earned a sum of 2,000,000 Fbu.

### **Results achieved**

- 90 young people from the Kanegwa and Nyakararo areas are dynamic and entrepreneurial thanks to the theoretical and practical training they received from RECOVI.
- A spirit of working together has been developed among young people who are beneficiaries of RECOVI activities.
- Each beneficiary earned at least 70000 Fbu after the summer holidays. The parents and the administration of the KIGANDA commune have welcomed the initiative and promised RECOVI that it will dedicate more effort toward supporting this drive and its aims.

### **Health**

In the field of health, RECOVI continued its technical and moral support for parent-child dialogue and extended this program in the province of Bubanza. Previously, RECOVI only worked in the provinces of Bujumbura, Cibitoke and Muramvya. Our program helps to also raise awareness of certain common diseases that children are vulnerable to. Through this approach, RECOVI has invented outreach strategies, and formed a group to teach the community the causes, symptoms, and means of prevention of the diseases.

### **Awareness of the fight against armed violence**

More than 800 people from three war-affected provinces received training on combating the illicit use and proliferation of small arms. Many events are carried out to counter armed violence.

### **Results achieved**

- 70 parent-child dialogue groups on sexual and reproductive health have been set up.
- 60 people were trained on the topics of malaria, typhoid, and HIV. Beneficiaries of these trainings know the symptoms, and how the diseases are formed. They also learned prevention strategies for these diseases.
- 80 groups have been trained on awareness-raising of the fight against armed violence
- 100 groups of the Savings and Internal Credit community were started during this year
- 40 orphaned children started primary school under the guidance of RECOVI.

### **Participation in National Workshops**

In order to strengthen partnerships with other organizations and to be a part of movements in different domains, RECOVI participated in various campaigns and workshops organized by the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), the Centre d'Initiative et de Developpement des personnes vulnérables CIDEP), the Centre d'Encadrement et de Developpement des Anciens Combatants (CEDAC), Search For Common Ground (SFCG), Forum du Bassin du Nil (FCBN) and Gira Ico Ukoze Ukiri muzima (GIUU).

## **Constraints of RECOVI**

It is important to note that funding sources for RECOVI's activities are limited, being mainly composed of membership fees and donations. In order to cope with the limited funds, the Executive Committee has reached out to CEDAC for office support. CEDAC has agreed to share its office with the RECOVI organization. For this, RECOVI's national headquarters are based in Kibenga Rural, Avenue Du Large.

Despite its careful management of its scarce resources, RECOVI must find support from additional donors in order to be sustainable and to carry out its programs, especially by taking advantage of its website and using it to showcase the activities already carried out.

## **Opportunities and Prospects of RECOVI**

RECOVI has a volunteer program that has already achieved all its objectives. RECOVI also has an action plan that guides it, although this plan will be updated. Similarly, RECOVI also works with Na Elikia a Geneva-based organization that has promised to support it in a twinning program, after which RECOVI will pioneer the program in Burundi in the field of support for children.

Although RECOVI's financial system is sound, strategic planning for our programs needs to be further developed and updated.

## RECOVI Photo Gallery of 2018



### **Easter festivities for child orphans and widows of the MUTIMBUZI Commune**

RECOVI organised Easter festivities for child orphans and widows on Sunday, 1 April 2018 at Maramvya. After giving a welcome to the visitors that included the delegations of Association des Pioniers de Kanyaru pour le Development (APKD) and Gira Ico Ukoze Ukiri Muzima (GIUU), the RECOVI chairman presented his action plans and provided an overview of RECOVI's work. Since 2015, RECOVI has worked with more than 100 families and 150 children to help them start small business so as to feed their families. Moreover, many street children have returned to school with the support of RECOVI. We very much enjoyed sharing Easter with the children in the Maramvya Zone.



### **International Gun Destruction Day**

Burundi marked International Gun Destruction Day on July 9 by visiting a local school to raise awareness of the effects of small arms in the community. Through a theater project, RECOVI members demonstrated how gun violence affects people's lives, and the importance of removing guns from circulation.

Burundi remains severely affected by a civil war that lasted over a decade, destroying infrastructure, weakening institutions, diminishing the economy, and causing social division. Weapons proliferation continues to be an issue, worsened by the illicit flow of arms across the porous border it shares with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Political struggles have also led to a low intensity conflict that has forced 400,000 Burundians to flee the country. Against this backdrop, RECOVI works tirelessly toward peace and nonviolence for future generations.

According to the Small Arms Survey, there are approximately one billion guns in circulation in the world. Destroying illicit guns and permanently removing them from circulation is essential, and RECOVI will continue to advocate for this.



### **Providing education about the Consequences of Illegal Guns in the Communities in MUTIMBUZI Commune**

In order to contribute to make our world better, RECOVI organised campaigns in war affected areas in the Bujumbura Province. We thank the government officials from both Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the community members who joined us in this effort. RECOVI says No to Gun Violence!

In order to continue our good work to fight against gun violence in the communities, we are acutely aware that a full-scale civil war loomed in our beloved country. Incidences of violence were commonplace in certain areas; a large number of people fled the country; and new potential rebel groups began to form. This has plunged the country into a tragic situation and has further promoted the circulation of weapons. RECOVI is working in the region to show the effects of small arms on our communities, and to foster a new generation that rejects armed violence as a solution to problems.



### **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign**

RECOVI brought this international campaign to the Kanyosha Zone of Bujumbura to draw public and official attention to the issue of violence against women as how it affects women across different types of work – both in the formal and informal sectors. Too often, women in Africa experience violence and discrimination in their households, schools, and workplaces. Our talks denouncing violence against women were highly welcomed by women and girls. RECOVI will continue to work to end violence against women and girls, and we recognize that doing so will enhance development within communities and families, and will contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5.2. Justice delayed means justice denied! It's time to end the scourge of violence against women and girls.



### **Environmental Protection**

On November 3 of 2018, in collaboration with ODEDU (Objective for Sustainable Development

Burundi), RECOVI helped to plant trees along a large ravine that had been damaged by erosion. As we have common goals, such as addressing climate change and protecting the environment, RECOVI participated in this action.

Supporting the concept that "all of us are needed to fight climate change", RECOVI is part of an international Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) network committed to working together to improve the lives of people affected by disasters in the world.



### **Leadership Training**

On 2 of November 2018, RECOVI carried out a Training, Workshop and Capacity Building of RECOVI staff. The training focused on the leadership theme: "A Leader is known by how many people he serves, and not by how many people serve him."



### **Distribution of School Materials**

On 6 September 2018, RECOVI traveled to the Mutimbuzi Commune of Maramvya zone in the rural province of Bujumbura to provide follow-up on children who were at the end of the holiday period.

RECOVI distributed school materials to 100 children who are orphans of the war. Each child received six notebooks and two pens for their schooling.

The ceremonies were attended by the representative of Solidarite de la Jeunesse Chretienne Pour la Paix et l'Enfant (SOJPAE) at the national level, the vice representative of CEDAC, the representative of the Centre d'Encadrement des Personnes Vulnerables (CEPEV), the representative of the administration of the Mutimbuzi Commune and members of RECOVI.

The representative of RECOVI, in his speech, thanked the members for the efforts to provide these school materials. He also advised the children to not sell the materials and to instead continue their schooling and study hard.

The representative of Burundi also thanked the association and said that the one who helps a child helps the whole of humanity. To the representative of the RECOVI administration, he thanked the association for the love we showed to these children and to the country. The ceremonies ended in joy.



## **Training Certificates**

RECOVI was chosen from many associations in Burundi to participate in a training workshop with the theme: "Design and Management of Development Projects" organized by the international NGO GLOBE GREEN. After two days of training, RECOVI Program Coordinator KWIZERA Samuel received a certificate. We congratulate Samuel and all of our members for their good work.



### **Promotion of entrepreneurial initiatives among the unemployed**

RECOVI is working in the Maramvya zone of Kanyosha to raise awareness in the households of this locality of savings and credit. This action is part of helping the population to fight against poverty and unemployment. As a result, members of the Community Savings and Internal Credit (CECI) can provide for their needs and those of their family.



### **Provision of school materials for orphans in the Muramvya Province**

RECOVI staff gave school materials to 70 child orphans in the Kiganda Commune of Muramvya Province in the presence of government officials and the security chief of the commune of Kiganda. They congratulated RECOVI for its good work fighting against armed violence, and we enjoyed spending the day with the children.



### **Support for Child Orphans in Bubanza Province**

Bubanza is a war-affected province of Burundi affected in which many children have been left orphaned, traumatized, and homeless. Many don't have hope for their future. RECOVI helps 80 children orphans in Bubanza, and we welcome everyone to offer their assistance to this project. We know that every child has the right to grow up free from fear and from violence so they can realize their full potential in life. Let's work together to end violence against all children.



### **International Day of Peace**

2018 was the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To mark the International Day of Peace on September 21 of 2018, the United Nations asked organizations and individuals to honor the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by highlighting any Article of the Declaration. RECOVI heeded this call and placed particular focus on Article 3 of the declaration, which states "everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security

of person”. RECOVI noted that gun violence undermines these rights. Furthermore, RECOVI used this important occasion to highlight Sustainable Development Goal 16.4, which seeks to significantly reduce illicit arms flows by 2030.

More than half a million people a year lose their lives to gun violence every year. Conflict and crime have forced many people to lose the security of their communities, others were forced to seek refuge in others countries, RECOVI aids victims of the conflict and works to stop armed violence. Through the actions of all our members across Burundi, we are creating preventing armed violence and building sustainable peace. It's time to show progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16.4 by removing illicit guns from circulation.



## Year End Celebration

During 2018, 800 people including children orphans and young unemployed received training on savings and credit. This action is a part of helping the population to fight against poverty and unemployment. As a result, members of community savings and internal Credit (CECI) can provide for their needs and those of their families. RECOVI launched an end-of-the-year celebration of this achievement and distributed certificates of encouragement to honor their courage and dedication to the association.