

Stories of Peace

Rwanda Peace Education Programme



TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE



The Rwanda Peace Education Programme

The Rwanda Peace Education Programme (RPEP) was a three year collaborative effort between four local and international partners: Aegis Trust, the Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP), Radio La Benevolencija (RLB) and USC Shoah Foundation – the Institute for Visual History and Education. The programme ran from July 2013 – June 2016.

THE RWANDA PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMME was funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The amount invested in the programme by SIDA was US \$7,305,165.

The overall aim of the programme was the promotion of social cohesion, positive values such as pluralism and personal responsibility, empathy, critical thinking and action in order to build a more peaceful society in Rwanda.

Building on the expertise of each partner organisation, the Rwanda Peace Education Programme was a multi-faceted effort with a variety of components, including a travelling Peace Exhibition, debates in high schools and universities, teacher training, youth leadership capacity-strengthening, advocacy, radio drama production, and capacity-building support to the staff of the Kigali Genocide Memorial and the Genocide Archives of Rwanda.

As such, the programme went beyond the limited notions of peace education in formal settings to deliver more comprehensive and community-based peace education and peace building.

Programme Components

The main activities of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme included:

ONSITE EDUCATION

Comprised of Kigali-based education programmes at the Kigali Genocide Memorial that provided peace education workshops for students and teachers.

OUTREACH

The community outreach programme was a three-week visit to 18 Rwandan districts that included teacher training, student workshops, a public traveling peace exhibition, community and youth debates, and an arts workshop for community members. The Aegis Trust and Radio La Benevolencija conducted the community outreach visits.

“SCHOOL DEBATES” TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

The Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP) worked with 36 teachers (facilitators) from 12 different schools in sustained capacity building in participatory methods and peace education pedagogy. These facilitators then established peace debate clubs in their respective schools. Additionally, student facilitators from three universities were also trained in World Schools Debate techniques and participatory methods.

IRDP also established five debate clubs among out-of-school youth who are active in their communities.

YOUTH CHAMPION AND AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

Aegis Trust implemented a youth leadership programme that targeted out-of-school community youth representatives for capacity-strengthening activities in peace education, project design, and project management through a small grants programme.

KIGALI GENOCIDE MEMORIAL ARCHIVE AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Capacity-strengthening of staff by USC Shoah Foundation was conducted to identify, collect and archive genocide-related evidence, including testimonies, and to develop educational resources based on this evidence.

This included IWitness, an online educational programme that develops technological skills, enables critical thinking, and teaches active citizenship through the use of testimonies from genocide survivors.

MUSEKEWEYA RADIO DRAMA

A weekly radio drama programme produced and broadcast since 2004 developed and disseminated peace education and peace building messages and themes to listeners.

PEDAGOGICAL COMMITTEE

Coordinated by the Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace, the committee reviewed the existing national curriculum through the lens of peace education, developed peace education content and methodologies for recommendation to national educational authorities, and engaged in advocacy activities with decision-makers to ensure that the committee's recommendations and content are integrated into the revised national curriculum.

A STORY TELLING APPROACH

Much of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme curriculum, activities and events were testimony-based, where audio visual testimonies of survivors, rescuers and other witnesses of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and the Holocaust are used as the primary motivation for learning concepts of empathy, tolerance, critical thinking and personal responsibility.

Produced in both digital and paper formats, these testimonies are accessed via IWitness and the Genocide Archive of Rwanda.



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A Strong Partnership For Peace

The Rwanda Peace Education Programme is the result of a strong partnership between a range of organisations working to build sustainable peace in Rwanda and around the world. By coming together, these organisations have enhanced their impact and reached tens of thousands – creating a new generation of champions for humanity.

THE ORGANISATIONS LEADING THE PROGRAMME ARE PROFILED BELOW. LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANT WORK THEY ARE DOING AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE RWANDA PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMME.



The Aegis Trust is an international organisation working to prevent genocide through commemoration, education, research, and advocacy. Aegis honours the memory of victims of genocide and enables students, professionals, decision-makers and the wider public to meet survivors and learn from their experiences.

Through education, Aegis works to build long-term peace by encouraging communities to change from mindsets of mistrust and prejudice to that of shared responsibility for peace and stability. Additionally, Aegis supports and conducts research about

genocide to improve the practice of prevention.

The organisation works where genocide is ongoing or a current threat, campaigning for decision-makers to help protect those most at risk, always striving to bring the voices of those affected to politicians, the media and the public.

The Aegis Trust runs the Kigali Genocide Memorial on behalf of the Government of Rwanda as well as the Genocide Archive of Rwanda. It is the lead organisation for the Rwanda Peace Education Programme.



The Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP) is a Rwandan non-governmental organisation established in 2001. IRDP contributes to the building of a sustainable peace in Rwanda through participatory action research on topics perceived as key challenges for lasting peace by the population.

The organisation promotes the culture of critical thinking through debate and dialogue on issues related to peace, the facilitation of debates and

dialogue in a safe and neutral space and constructive dialogue to influence policies, and share experiences with other peace initiatives.

Through participatory research, active citizen participation and policy advocacy, IRDP has significantly contributed to empowering Rwandans to voice their concerns on sustained peace building, socio-economic and inclusive development.



Radio La Benevolencija (RLB) Humanitarian Tools Foundation (La Benevolencija) empowers groups and individuals who are the target of hate speech and ensuing acts. It broadcasts fictional radio dramas, factual radio discussions and educational programmes, in combination with grass roots activities that provide citizens in vulnerable societies with knowledge on how to recognise and resist manipulation to violence, encouraging them to be active bystanders against incitement and violence.

The organisation's radio drama "Musekweya" (New Dawn) is one of the most listened to radio soaps in Rwanda. In 2015, it was identified that 60% of Rwandans listen to Musekweya every week. Using the impact of its radio programmes and connecting it to local activities, RLB contributes to social cohesion through training in healing and reconciliation for communities around Rwanda.

The radio drama and related activities form a key part of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme.

USC Shoah Foundation

USC Shoah Foundation - The Institute for Visual History and Education is dedicated to making audio-visual interviews with survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides a compelling voice for education and action. The institute works within the University of Southern California and with partners to advance academic scholarship and research and provide resources and online tools for educators.

The institute also works with partner organisations to preserve and disseminate audio-visual testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses in digital formats for educational purposes.

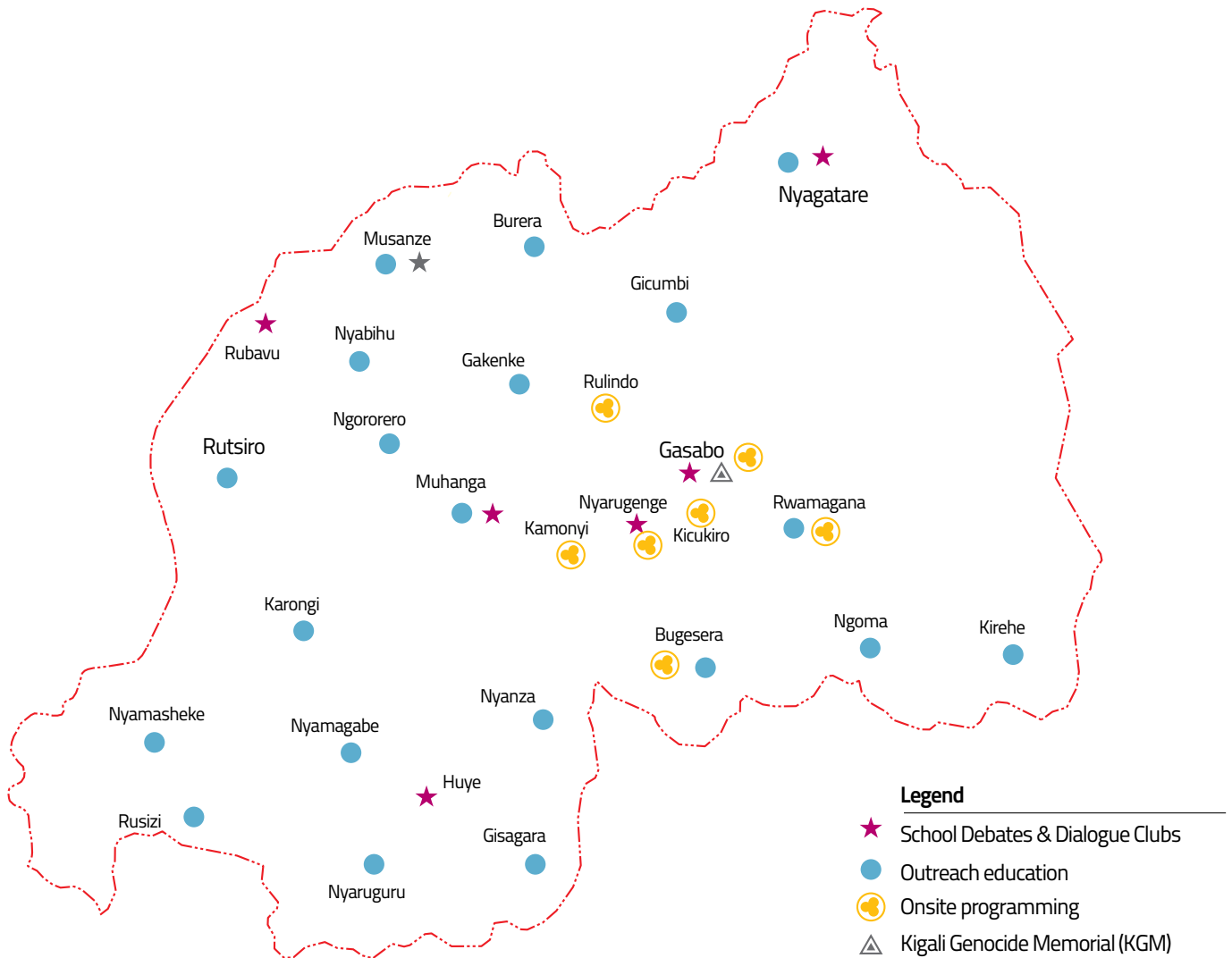
The institute contributes to the Rwanda Peace Education Programme by making available its vast digital testimony archive for teaching about peace and conducting workshops with secondary school educators about integrating testimonies into their lessons.

This is done through the ground-breaking website IWitness (iwitness.usc.edu). The institute also contributes to the programme by training Aegis Trust staff on how best to preserve testimonies for historical and educational use through the Genocide Archive of Rwanda.

RPEP IMPACT REVIEW

The Power of Peace

Rwanda Peace Education Intervention Map



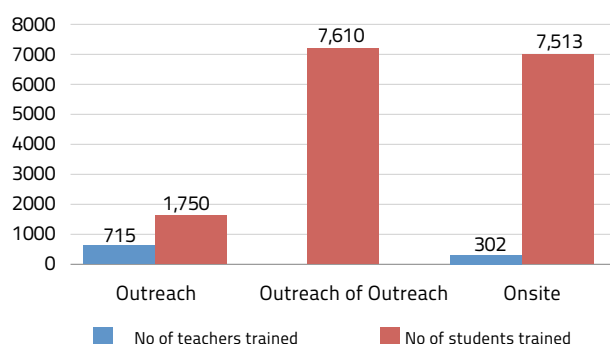
The Rwanda Peace Education Programme has had a remarkable impact on the lives of Rwandans across the country.

DURING THE THREE years of the programme, outreach education workshops were conducted with more than 10,000 people in 19 communities while more than 7,500 students were trained at the Kigali Genocide Memorial. Additionally, more than 300 teachers from the districts of Kamonyi, Bugesera, Rwamagana, Rulindo, Nyarugenge and Kicukiro were trained during one-day and three-day teacher trainings.

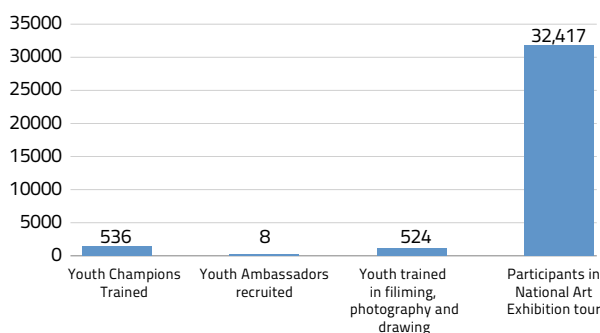
Impact in Numbers

The following figures give an overview of the boundary partners with whom RPEP directly interacted; it does not include Kigali Genocide Memorial visitors.

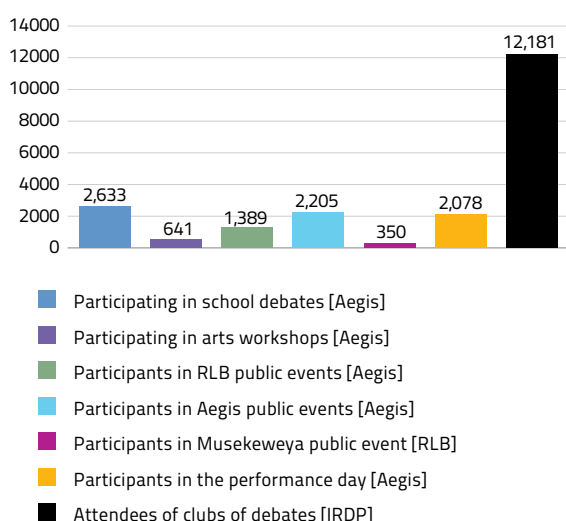
Teachers & Students Statistics Outreach & On-site



Youth Statistics



Public Event Statistics



Young people are crucial to efforts to build lasting peace in Rwanda. Through the programme, more than 500 young people from all walks of life were brought together and trained as 'Youth Champions'. Many of these champions went on to set up clubs and initiatives to build peace in their communities. Towards the end of the programme, the Ubuntu International Youth Conference was held with 120 participants from 16 countries, allowing Rwanda's Youth Champions to share their experience with their peers from across the region and around the world.

School and community debates were an important vehicle through which the programme fostered critical thinking, active bystandership, conflict management, active listening and respect for diversity.

As part of the programme, youth debates were held on a monthly basis and focused on community challenges identified programme partners and beneficiaries.

Programme partner the Institute for Research, Dialogue and Peace (IRDP) organised workshops on peace education and participatory approaches during school holidays. The 38 teachers from 12 different schools gained skills to share with their colleagues in their communities. In addition, 17 facilitators from three universities were trained in debate techniques (World School Debate and Policy Debate) and participatory methods. To support these efforts, two decision makers' forums took place, bringing together teachers, government representatives, partner organisations and donors.

In response to repeated requests from listeners, Radio La Benevolencija (RLB) introduced weekend broadcasts for Musekeweya on Radio Izuba. This was made possible with the support of the Dutch Embassy in Rwanda, which helped to increase the reach of the drama. In early 2016, RLB was approached by Radio Rwanda to rebroadcast all episodes of Musekeweya starting from the first episode, to appeal to a younger generation.

This was done free of cost in recognition of the popularity of the radio drama therefore reaching out to a bigger number of listeners. Musekeweya's popularity remained high throughout the programme. For example sixty percent of those surveyed in the Musekeweya popularity survey 2015 said they listened to Musekeweya on a weekly basis.

The upgraded Genocide Archive of Rwanda website

was launched and has recorded more than 150,000 visitors who are mostly scholars, students and researchers. Today, the archive contains testimonies from before, during and after the Genocide against the Tutsi and stories of reconciliation. Many of the resources and evidence collected by the Genocide Archive of Rwanda have been made publically available.

As part of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme, IWitness trainings focused on teachers who had not only participated in workshops under the IWitness in Rwanda project, but specifically those who had showed interest in conducting pilots in their own classrooms and who expressed an interest in learning how to create their own content.

These teachers were invited to take part in an advanced workshop that covered activity building. Once the inclusion of peace education in the new curriculum was complete, the educators were invited back again for a one-day workshop on the new curriculum and how IWitness testimonies could be used to compliment this.

The workshop was led by an educator who had been trained to use testimony and IWitness and had piloted the content in his own classroom.

To ensure that teachers were able to create useful content, another workshop was conducted specifically around content creation as well as a one-on-one coaching on lesson planning and how to create specific learning outcomes.

This group of educators participated in a number of workshops and trainings, and thus began to not only build upon their learning but also create networks to continue discussing lessons learnt.

As a result of the training and coaching, IWitness-trained educators announced that they wanted to create their own association to better organise themselves to raise awareness among their peers and train others on how to use testimony in their classrooms.

This is significant as it shows evidence that these educators were so highly engaged with the content that even after the project has ended they still want to maintain an active role in sharing their knowledge with others.



"We were taught to never stand by"

Fiston Gaspard – a young Rwandan with a passion for peace



Young, energetic and passionate, Fiston Gaspard Ntawiheba is a young Rwandan born in 1990 in Rukara sector, Rwimishinya village. The last born of five, Fiston Gaspard went to Ecole Primaire de Rwimishinya for his primary school and later on in Groupe Scholaire Gahini for his secondary school.

AFTER HIS SECONDARY SCHOOL, Fiston did not continue to university because he realised that his community urgently needed him; he has a lot to contribute to ensure that peace prevails. He started

volunteering in youth activities in his sector so as to influence other young people to take action in building their country. Soon he was elected as the youth leader in his village.

In August 2014, Fiston Gaspard was invited to the Youth Champions trainings organised by the Aegis Trust. This training empowered young people from different parts of the country with skills in leadership, public speaking, advocacy and peace building to help them start up their own peace building projects and contribute to conflict resolution once back into their communities.

"This programme removed all the barriers that stopped me from accomplishing my goals in Rwimishinya. It motivated me to reach higher goals through hard work. It reminded me the role that I and other young people have to play in making our country better," Fiston Gaspard said. After the trainings, Fiston Gaspard went back to Rwimishinya and started a youth association he called "Impuhwe Youth Association" to empower young people in his village with life skills that would help them to improve their standards of living and organise community building activities. Impuhwe Youth Association has now 43 members and has trained more than 80 young people in entrepreneurship, peace building and leadership skills. The association is also a forum for youth to discuss the challenges they face and how they can solve them together.

Impuhwe Youth Association has started visiting families in conflict to try and advise them and help them solve their issues.

“ There is no way we can live in peace if there are conflicts in our homes. Through our trainings, we were taught to never stand by and watch atrocities or impunity. As young people it became our responsibility to unite our community. In the end, no one else will come and do it for us if we don't try ourselves ”

Fiston Gaspard said.

Today, Fiston Gaspard is very happy and very thankful for being part of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme Youth Champions initiative. He says that he knows many young people who are motivated and have the energy to work for peace in their communities but they lack adequate support:

"I am happy that Aegis understood my passion in helping the people in need and supported me," he said.

Local leaders are also very happy with the involvement of young people in the life of the community:

“ When I see what Fiston Gaspard and his association are doing, I am filled with joy and hope because I believe that there is power in the youth and if well used it can make this world better than it has ever been before. I am very thankful to the Aegis Trust for supporting our youth and helping them discover the power they have in themselves. ”

Pascal Kanamugire, District Youth Officer in Kayonza.

When Musekeweya crossed the airwaves from Rwanda to DRC

Mujawamungu Imaculée is from Ngororero District, but fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo, then Zaire, in 1994. While there, she started listening to Musekeweya and to the conflict between the two hills, Muhumuro and Bumanzi.

DUE TO THE wide coverage of Radio Rwanda, Musekeweya is also heard in the DRC. She compared the two villages, one to Rwanda and other to the DRC where she lived then and felt that the two could never reconcile.

Over time, she understood how people in Muhumuro and Bumanzi were settling their differences, and this inspired her. She made a decision to return to Rwanda because of Musekeweya.

When Mujawamungu returned to Rwanda, she was welcomed by her community. Later on, she was elected as a member of the Abunzi (local community mediators). At this time, her husband was still a rebel in DRC and she asked him to listen to Musekeweya as well. He was also positively influenced and decided to return to Rwanda with five other rebels.

Mujawamungu explains that she learned a lot from Fabiani, the director of a school in Musekeweya, on the way that conflicts among students can be resolved.

“ I continue to use these lessons in my daily work as a mediator ”

Mujawamungu



▲ Mujawamungu Immaculee who decided to return to Rwanda from the exile in Congo after listening to Musekeweya episodes.

Mujawamungu has even recruited new listeners into the Musekeweya family. Marciana Kanziga was the village leader who received Mujawamungu when she first returned to Rwanda. “She is the one that introduced me to Musekeweya,” says Kanziga who admires the positive characters of Shema and Batamuriza, who have tried to build peace between the people of Muhumuro and Bumanzi.

Rameaux extends the olive branch of peace across Rwanda

Rameaux Twizeyimana is a 24-year-old youth champion from Rusororo in Gasabo District who is building peace across the country.



RAMEAUX RECENTLY ORGANISED a launch event for his school's peace club together with other students from G.S. Rusororo High School in Gasabo District. Since then, he and his peers have gone on to spread the message of peace across the country.

The club's mission is to eradicate genocide ideology, solve conflicts and build a brighter future starting with strengthening peace in their community.

Rameaux was part of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme youth champions initiative, which trains young people in leadership, public speaking, advocacy, and teaches about the continuum of violence, the continuum of benevolence and peace building.

Since his training in 2014, together with other members of his club called "Root of peace in our motherland", Rameaux has been able to create seven other clubs in different schools.

Through these clubs, he mentors students about peace building and also helps them support themselves financially through income generating activities such as arts, craft and sewing.

So far he has managed to gather 800 students and 125 non-schooling young people in different clubs.

Speaking about his remarkable peace building efforts, Rameaux Twizerimana says:

“ All I have been able to accomplish is thanks to the skills and knowledge I acquired through the youth champions training. It enabled me to discover my ability, potential and understand the role I could play in peace building ”

Rameaux is one of Rwanda's new generation of champions for peace and humanity. He works hard to involve other young people in peace building activities and encourages them to be initiators of change in their community. Rameaux is a role model, not only for his peers, but for all of us.

PASS IT ON: Teaching Peace Education

I have gained many skills that will help me to be more creative and prepare innovative lessons in my classroom.



Educators from the Rwanda Peace Education Programme gathered teachers from Nyaruguru, Musanze, Nyagatare and Kirehe districts for a training workshop.

THE TRAINING OF trainers took place in Kigali and equipped trainers with a deeper understanding of peace education components that have been integrated in the revised national curriculum for pre-primary, primary and secondary school levels.

The first training of this kind took place in November 2014 with 20 teachers from Karongi, Nyanza, Rwamagana and Gicumbi districts. The second workshop was organised in June 2015 for 23 teachers from Ngororero, Muhanga and Rusizi district. In total, 11 districts have been represented in these series of trainings and 67 trainers gained the necessary skills to prepare their colleagues in the use of the new curriculum with regards to the new peace education aspects.

The new peace education elements aim to achieve sustainable peace by building social cohesion and promoting values such as critical thinking and empathy.

"This last training was special because it came after the new school curriculum had been launched and the teachers were expected to start implementing it at the beginning of the 2016 academic year in February.

To put it differently, they only had three months to master the content and methodologies validated by the Rwanda Education Board. This made the teachers very motivated.

They were eager to learn the new skills and methods necessary to deliver peace education components that have now become cross-cutting," said Nepo Ndahimana, Aegis Trust Educator and RPEP trainer of trainers.

For the teachers who were trained with the expectation to go back and train others, the impact was undeniable:

"My confidence in delivering trainings or workshops to others has increased thanks to this workshop.

I have gained many skills that will help me to be more creative and prepare innovative lessons in my classroom activities and I will share these skills with others," said one of the teachers.

The training not only provided skills to the teachers trained, but also contributed to a commitment to change the way they think and act:

“ We used to attend different workshops and we would go back the same as we came, but this training brought a change in my behaviour. There is a lot that has been changed in my character because of this and I believe it will be reflected in the way I teach. ”

Nepo Ndahimana emphasised the importance of having diverse groups of teachers from across the country who understand the implications of the new curriculum:

“ It is important to reach out to teachers from different regions. It gives us confidence that what they learn will be taken to all corners of Rwanda and our children will be positively impacted to build a peaceful country ”



▲ Teachers sharing experience in peace education during a reflective workshop at IRDP.

Teachers share peace education experience

New peace education curriculum module is welcomed with enthusiasm by teachers

[Representatives from 12 schools across](#) Rwanda met at the Institute for Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP) to analyse the opportunities and challenges that could arise as the Rwanda Peace Education Programme module is integrated into the national school curriculum.

DURING THE REFLECTIVE workshop, teachers shared the experiences and challenges they have faced when teaching about peace in their own schools and how other teachers could overcome these when the programme becomes the national standard. Participants also discussed the achievements of 2015 so that those teaching the programme in the coming years can benefit from past experience.

The views of these teachers are especially useful as they are familiar with the competences that the new curriculum wants to develop:

“The participants have benefited from the new peace education module through a dozen introduction and training workshops provided by IRDP to their teachers since the launch of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme”

Aimable Ruzima, the Institute for Research and Dialogue for Peace.

The teachers were thus best qualified to know what to improve and what to maintain in the module. In this way, they acted as ambassadors for other teachers who are going to go through the same process of teaching about peace in their schools.

Some of the achievements reported by those ambassadors were that students' critical thinking skills were strengthened and that the interaction between the students has become more positive and that empathy has developed amongst them.

The result is that students started to show more care and concern to disadvantaged members of their communities.

“Peace education promotes empathy and kindness for the vulnerable and the poor in our communities such as people with disabilities, refugees and those that are ill. People with this knowledge are more inclined to act with compassion at any time and in any circumstance”

Emilienne Mushimiyimana and Rukundo Lambert, Educators, Centre Scolaire Elena Guerra.

Some challenges were also raised, such as language as some schools reported having insufficient English knowledge, meaning activities such as debates and other interactive programmes could present a challenge amongst the students.

Another challenge is the hesitation to implement the new peace education module in some schools for fear of overwhelming teachers and students with work, or because they lacked understanding of the full concept of the module.

“The change we need to see happening in our communities has to start from ourselves. We are active agents and responsible for peace building in our society,” said Elisee Utazirubanda and Osile Ndahimana Educators from Groupe Scolaire Officiel de Butare.

Despite the challenges, teachers who attended the workshop said that the new national curriculum and the new peace education module would bring positive change for them and their students as it encourages interaction and critical thinking. They also said that the peace education module is welcomed with enthusiasm by the majority of their fellow teachers and students.

A journey to forgiveness starts with an arts workshop

Batamuliza Mwamini, a genocide survivor participated in a Rwanda Peace Education Programme arts workshop organised by La Benevolencija in Musanze.



COINCIDENTALLY AT the workshop Jonas Nkuriza, Executive Secretary of Cyabararika cell, was also present. Nkuriza knew Mwamini and the troubles she had faced recovering money that was owed to her for properties damaged by another family in the community. This money was the reparation that had been determined by the Gacaca Courts.

After learning about the evolution of violence and active bystanders in the workshop, they participated in a session on the role of forgiveness in reconciliation. Deeply touched by this, Nkuriza approached Thadee Mpazeruwo and Thamali Nyirabarera, the people who owed Mwamini money to ask for her forgiveness. They had avoided Mwamini for years but, encouraged by Nkuriza, took some money and beer to her.

Mwamini reflected on her own anger during the workshop and realised that forgiving made her a courageous person.

“ I accepted the money they gave me so we could live peacefully ”

Mwamini

Forgiveness takes time, but at least she was able to make a start as result of what she experienced in the workshop. There are many more cases such as this in Mwamini's community and in Rwanda where families have not yet come to terms with their past. Both she and Nkuriza are now committed to helping others reconcile.

“ I use what I learnt at the workshop during Umuganda and other community meetings to help people understand how forgiveness can help reconcile society ”

Nkuriza



▲ Batamuliza Mwamini (L) together with Thamali Nyirabarera.



▲ Thadee Mpazeruwo (L) with Batamuliza Mwamini



Youth Champions build house for genocide survivor

Young champions for peace have built a house for Odette Nyiransabimana, a genocide survivor and widow from Nyagatare District in Rwanda's Eastern Province.

WITHOUT THE LEADERSHIP of Alexis Rishirumuhirwa, a youth champion from her district, Odette's housing situation would have remained unsolved.

Alexis created a local peace club called "Sowers of peace" together with four other young people trained through the Rwanda Peace Education Programme. This group of young people committed to construct a house for Odette, considerably improving her living conditions.



▲ Members of “Sowers of peace” a peace club made of youth champions together with Odette Nyiransabimana, a genocide survivor and widow from Nyagatare District whom they helped renovate her house.

These young people bought her a land and built the house from scratch. They used their hands to create bricks and involved the whole community.

Aegis Trust gave the young people Rwf 800,000 to support their work. This house is now worth approximately Rwf 3 million.

In addition to the psychological consequences of the Genocide against the Tutsi, many widows face financial issues that impact their integration within the society.

Housing remains one of the acute problems for genocide survivors and widows of the Genocide in particular because they are the most vulnerable.

Odette couldn't hide her joy and gratitude when she was handed the keys to her new house, saying:

“ As you can see I have only one leg left since the Genocide. Life is really difficult for me but thanks to you, I have a place where I can lay my head at night. ”

In 2015, youth champions built five houses across Rwanda. Given the impact of the activities undertaken by youth champions, there are high hopes that other young Rwandans will follow in the footsteps of their peers.



▲ Odette Nyiransabimana's house renovated by youth champions



IWitness brings peace education into the digital age

I have gained many skills that will help me to be more creative and prepare innovative lessons in my classroom.

Educators from Kigali, Musanze, Rubavu, Muhanga and Rwamagana districts attended the IWitness workshop on the Advanced Use of Multimedia in Peace Education. The workshop took place at the Kigali Institute of Education and had a lasting impact.



▲ A group of students viewing audio-visual testimonies on IWitness website in order to learn more about the history of Genocide

THE TEACHERS WHO benefitted from this training were also trained at the Kigali Genocide Memorial by Aegis Trust educators as well as by the Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP).

This complementarity between the training by USC Shoah Foundation, IRDP and Aegis Trust is key for teachers who need practical knowledge on how they can use IWitness and fully integrate it in the new school curriculum used in Rwanda.

"The IWitness website is very useful for me. This tool will allow me to have more teaching material for my students, as only using text books and photographs was limiting me. Showing them these videos will also make the courses more interesting and they will understand more about the subjects of peace building and genocide," said one of the teachers.

The interest triggered by the use of multimedia as an educational support is not surprising. Many of the teachers confess that they have often lacked

confidence when tackling the issue of genocide at school.

The history is still so recent that talking about the Genocide can often mean talking about students' direct family history: some students have family members who were killed during the Genocide; some others have relatives who killed during the Genocide.

As a result, details can remain obscure for children as some families prefer not to discuss the Genocide at home because of the pain it can bring. Despite this, most children know that the Genocide history contains parts of their own family history. This is a major challenge for teachers and educators in general.

Multimedia testimonies is part of the solution because it allows teachers to use compelling human stories that are accompanied with guidance on how to develop lessons. The teachers are no longer alone.

“ Not only will this method of using audio-visual testimonies be useful for my students, but it will also help me as a teacher. This website will also help me strengthen my knowledge on the subject I teach, helping me build my confidence as a teacher ”

Said one of the teachers trained in the use of IWitness



Kigali Genocide Memorial to enhance visitor experience

As part of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme, the Kigali Genocide Memorial is undertaking a series of inspiring initiatives to better engage with its visitors and audiences – especially community members.

A GROUP OF expert designers, architects and creative thinkers recently visited Rwanda for a weeklong workshop at the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

The team from 'UX For Good' conducted interactive workshops with community members, survivors, government representatives as well as memorial staff to discuss how to enhance the visitor experience. The workshops also addressed how to make the memorial even more of a home for survivors and improve remembrance and learning facilities for all the memorial's audiences.

UX For Good is a non-profit collective of top designers from around the world who come together to solve pressing and complex social challenges. 'UX' stands for 'user experience'.

The UX For Good team first visited Rwanda in 2014 and conducted over 500 hours of research to understand the experience of visitors and others when they interact with the memorial – either by visiting, being part of an education programme or online. Their research resulted in the creation of a new user experience model called the ‘Inzovu Curve’.

The Inzovu Curve, named after the Kinyarwanda word for ‘elephant’, maps the ideal transformative journey and experience of a person visiting a memorial or museum. Since its creation at the Kigali Genocide Memorial, the model that has been used to advise museums and memorials around the world on how to visitor-centred experiences.

“Last year while visiting the Kigali Genocide Memorial, we realised that the journey of a visitor ended with a strong emotion – pain. In creating the Inzovu Curve, we aim to design an experience which offers visitors the chance to reflect, experience a sense of hope, and then be inspired to take meaningful action in their communities”

Jason Ulaszek, founder of UX For Good

During the most recent visit, staff at the memorial worked with the designers to come up with ideas on how to create an experience that tells the reality of the Genocide against the Tutsi, as well as the incredible stories of personal and community resilience that have characterised Rwanda’s renewal over the last twenty-two years.

“This memorial was not created to be static – it is a place of living souls and many Rwandans call it home. By working with the UX For Good team, we will enhance the experience of visitors. We also want the memorial to be a place where survivors and the wider community feel especially comforted when they visit and so will introduce a number of improvements to support them as they remember and learn about peace here,” said Yves Kamurongi, Aegis Trust Country Director.

Since 2004, the Kigali Genocide Memorial has undergone significant changes – including the creation of a Children’s Memorial, peace education classrooms, an amphitheatre and a social enterprise café that supports the work of the memorial. The exhibitions contained within the memorial have also been updated to reflect the country’s journey of peace building and reconciliation.

The memorial also organises remembrance and education events for a range of audiences that aim to create behaviour change for a more peaceful world.

▼ A group paying their respects to the victims of Genocide against The Tutsi at the Kigali Genocide Memorial



Genocide Archive of Rwanda – a tool for peace education

Since the launch of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme in July 2013, the Genocide Archive of Rwanda has been an invaluable source of teaching material for peace education.



THE GENOCIDE ARCHIVE of Rwanda contains more than 8,000 documents, videos, audios, photographs and artefacts that form the world's largest archive of evidence related to the Genocide against the Tutsi. The collection started from the materials that were being donated by individuals and institutions, both

local and international, for the development of the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

Once the exhibitions at the memorial were complete, the additional evidence from the Genocide was collected, protected and stored. A few years later, the



▲ Umutoniwase Yvette, one of the Aegis staff presenting different sections of the Genocide Archive of Rwanda. An online platform with evidences related to the Genocide against the Tutsi.

Genocide Archive of Rwanda went online through its digital archive, which was established in 2010.

With a number of items already archived, Aegis Trust, which runs the memorial on behalf of the government, saw the need and opportunity to collect audio-visual testimonies from survivors, perpetrators, elders and rescuers of the Genocide and add them to the archive.

The Genocide Archive team, based at Aegis, also set out developing and producing short films and documentaries for the collection. These videos, and other content such as documents, maps and photographs, are now used as resources for the Rwanda Peace Education Programme. The archive team has also used their talents and skills to produce videos about individual success stories and other peace building and reconciliation community experiences.

Over the last year, the collection team developed films for the following Rwanda Peace Education Programme activities:

- Documenting teacher trainings
- Documenting the Rwanda Education Board master-teacher training
- Developing a visual guide to using the Genocide Archive of Rwanda online platform
- Producing the film 'Jacque and Martin – Uniting Families'
- Creating the Rwanda Peace Education Programme success stories documentary
- Covering the Ubumuntu Arts Festival

- Producing a film about the Ntarama Genocide Memorial

The archive team also collected audio-visual testimonies that focus on particular cases from the Genocide against the Tutsi.

Between January and March 2016, the collection team focused on testimonies from survivors who experienced sexual violence in the Genocide. In total, 15 testimonies were collected. These films are helping researchers understand the cruelty experienced by survivors and the horror committed by perpetrators. These video testimonies are also incredibly important historically as the Genocide against the Tutsi was the first instance where perpetrators were convicted of rape as a war crime.

To make the archive collection more comprehensive, the team will collect testimonies of perpetrators who remain incarcerated. Such collections will add to our understanding of the Genocide and allow us to gain an insight into perpetrators' post genocide identities and perspectives on unity and reconciliation.

The documentary films and testimonies collected have been supporting the teaching of peace education and the history of the Genocide against the Tutsi. Today, the archive's digital platform has become one of the main providers of peace education material, not just for the Rwanda Peace Education Programme, but also for students, teachers and researchers around the globe.

Visit the Genocide Archive of Rwanda at the Kigali Genocide Memorial or online at www.genocidearchiverwanda.org.rw.



The Musical Messengers of Nyaruguru

The members of the Impuruza Club in Nyaruguru also call themselves a Musekeweya Club because of how the weekly radio drama has influenced them.

THE CLUB FIRST started in 2011 with the support of the Red Cross to help vulnerable people. They perform songs and dance pieces related to peace in the villages around Nyaruguru. Since the members were also regular followers of Musekeweya, they were inspired to become active bystanders and intervene in community conflicts as part of the club's activities.

Emmanuel Mutimukeye is one of the current club members who was a street boy and was known to be a trouble maker before he joined. Other club members tried to understand him and approached him at home and in his school to join the club.

"The first time I listened to an episode of Musekeweya, I was inspired by Rutaganira", says Mutimukeye.

Rutaganira was a fiercely negative character who changed after going to prison and is now a positive

influence in society. Realising that he was not interested in school, the club members taught Mutimukeye hair dressing and helped him to open a salon.

Another person to benefit from the club's support is Theoneste Muragizi who had unknowingly married a girl from a different ethnic background. He started mistreating her as a result. Members of the club found out about this issue and went to visit Mugarizi's family. By giving him examples of Shema and Batamuriza from Musekeweya, characters from different ethnic backgrounds who fell in love and got married, it opened a conversation about reconciliation. "This totally changed my relationship with my wife", says Theoneste Mugarizi.

He and his wife are now members of the club and also help other families in conflict to reconcile.

A Peace Club Transforming Lives



After participating in an arts workshop run by Radio La Benevolencija, the Head Teacher of Groupe Scolaire Cyabagarura in Musanze, Francois Ruhanamirindi, had the idea to form their own students' club.

TOGETHER WITH other teachers who participated in the teacher training activities, they started a peace club which today has more than 60 students.

Today they use various tools from the arts workshop and take students through the mini panels in the mobile exhibition and tell the story of the Genocide against the Tutsi and the steps towards reconciliation.

Every Wednesday, they come together and create songs, dances and theatre pieces with a message of peace that they perform for students.

The main objective of the club is to support students to act when they see something going wrong in their community.

"We want them to analyse how they can resist bad influences and resolve conflicts on their own," says Ruhanamirindi.

Jean Claude Nduwamungu, a S6 student, is one of the club members who was inspired to act when he saw his friend abusing drugs and dropping out of school.

"I explained to him that this would not help him and that he needed to come back and continue his education," says Nduwamungu.

His friend eventually agreed. In a culture where parents often discourage their children from getting involved in other people's problems, this was a big achievement for Nduwamungu and for the peace club that encouraged him to take action.

Youth Ambassador helps students go back to school



Sandra Olga, a Youth Ambassador trained by Aegis Trust, started a project of helping students who have dropped out from school because of poverty. Since starting the project, she has helped ten students to go back to school.

Sandra supports the students by providing them with school fees, learning materials and uniforms. Of the ten students she supports, eight of them are studying at Groupe Scolaire Kibirizi.

Shakijuru group builds peace and prosperity

As one of the teachers trained by the Rwanda Peace Education Programme, Saidi saw the need to support the development of his community. After undertaking the training, he founded a peace building group called Shakijuru.

The group supports needy people in the Kamembe Sector and has already built two houses, renovated eight houses, provided food to 120 families, and visited 120 families at their home and provided them basic needs. Shakijuru has also provided support to 15 people who needed transport to Butare Hospital and has provided capital to eight people so that they could start small businesses.

These efforts have been undertaken through a framework of peace building and are helping to ensure social cohesion in Kamembe Sector, Rusizi district.

Integrating Peace & Values into the National School Curriculum

At the end of 2013, the Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP) put in place a team, called the Pedagogical Committee, to manage the development and review of the teaching materials and methodologies of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme.

THE PURPOSE was to present these resources to the Ministry of Education and the Rwanda Education Board for them to be considered during national curriculum review process and potentially integrated into the new curriculum.

The team's key tasks were to:

- Analyse the existing curriculum, identify gaps and develop recommendations
- Harmonize content and education approaches. Conduct advocacy activities to get the recommendations of the committee incorporated in Rwanda's new teaching curriculum

The committee conducted an analysis of the curriculum through meetings with the team and representatives of partner organisations. It also held brainstorming retreats, consulted Rwanda Peace Education Programme partners, stakeholders and educators. The results of this work were collated into presentations delivered to decision makers' forums and then developed into informative documents.

Achievements

The work of the Pedagogical Committee contributed to some incredible results for the Rwanda Peace Education Programme, including:

- The national curriculum assessment showed that in the past peace education, as a topic, has been present in the national curriculum in subjects including history, general paper, political education, and social sciences, but was taught with weak teaching approaches and was disregarded as an important educational component.
- The development of a proposal of teaching materials and methodologies for different levels of primary and secondary classes.
- Development of a list of teachers' requirements form.
- Production of a summary document of the Pedagogical Committee's activities.

In addition, various meetings and contacts were made with the Ministry of Education and the Rwanda



▲ Members of Pedagogical Committee during one of the sessions discussing on integration of Peace and Values as a cross cutting subject in school curriculum

Education Board. This led to two retreats to assess the existing national curriculum and to enrich the detailed Rwanda Peace Education Programme content and teaching approaches. A policy brief was then presented to decision makers for the purpose of information sharing and advocacy. The work of the committee was shared with decision makers at two forums.

These efforts led to the successful integration of Peace and Values as a cross cutting subject in Rwanda's new national school curriculum. This ensures that the lessons from the Rwanda Peace Education Programme will be learnt by students in every classroom in the country.

"We thank the Pedagogical Committee for providing inputs from the Rwanda Peace Education Programme to the curriculum. For now, peace education content and methods have been integrated in the draft curriculum of Rwanda as crosscutting subjects, not a standalone and specialised subject, to allow all Rwandan students to know and adopt it," Dr. Joyce Musabe, Deputy Director General in charge of curriculum and educational material, Rwanda Education Board.

"We congratulate IRDP for coordinating the work to integrate the Rwanda Peace Education Programme into the national curriculum through the Pedagogical Committee. With this programme, we will strengthen the skills of teachers through trainings and show

the importance peace education," Dr. Jean Baptiste Habyalimana, Executive Secretary, National Unity and Reconciliation Commission.

“Congratulations for the job well done. There is a need for future collaboration between the Rwanda Peace Education Programme and the Parliamentary Commission for Education in spreading methodologies of peace education such as storytelling and exhibitions.”

**Honourable Christine Muhongayire,
Member of the Parliament of Rwanda**

Peace Week: Celebrating the Rwanda Peace Education Programme

Peace Week marked the conclusion of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme through a series of events that inspired and challenged Rwandans to become peacemakers in their own communities.

Peace Week shared stories from ordinary Rwandans who have used their skills and talents to influence their peers to build a Rwanda that is free from conflict and division. The week included the Ubumuntu International Youth Conference, a Peacemakers Exhibition, a School 'Arts for Peace' Exhibition, film screenings as well as different events by programme partners.

Ubumuntu International Youth Conference

The Ubumuntu International Youth Conference was organised by Aegis Trust under the theme "All for Humanity". During the conference, young people learnt about genocide and its effects, and post genocide reconstruction. They also had the chance to visit memorials, reconciliation villages and hear from leading scholars and practitioners in the area of peace building, conflict prevention and resolution.

More than 100 young peace-builders from 16 different countries were selected to attend. The week-long event welcomed participants from Bosnia, Burundi, Kenya, Zambia, France, China, Germany, Japan, and more.

The Conference included lectures from prominent genocide and holocaust expert such as Dr. James Smith, CEO of the Aegis Trust, Freddy Mutanguha, East Africa Regional Director of the Aegis Trust, Professor Alice Urusaro Karekezi, Conflict Management Lecturer at the University of Rwanda, and Mac Hamilton, Executive Manager at STAND.

"The purpose of the conference was to create a network of young people from across the world who

are committed to becoming peace builders. From day one, they were engaged in discussions concerning the definition and impact of genocide, reconciliation activities and cultural exchanges. We wanted the participants to learn as much as they could during their stay. From here they have become a part of a network of dynamic young people who will keep leading peace initiatives." Marc Gwamaka, Youth Coordinator, Aegis Trust.

"The conference really opened my eyes regarding the systematic steps leading to the Genocide. I spoke to one of the perpetrators of the Genocide on the impact youth can have when they choose to fight for or against peace and that was an eye opener concerning the power of youth for me. As a Burundian, my hope in recovery for Burundi was renewed. Rwanda shows us that any nation can recover when people are united." Malvine Nkurikiye, Burundi.

"Genocide ideology and denial is still very much alive and uniting the youth in this manner multiplies our efforts and strengthens our message as we teach about the genocide to ensure it never again becomes



▲ Participants of the Ubuntu International Youth Conference doing registration

a reality. I feel empowered belonging to this network of peace builders and change makers because I see the potential in our united effort to preserve peace and prevent genocide anywhere in the world.”
Huguette Ingabire, Rwanda.

“ It has been thrilling to interact with all the other youths from Africa and the rest of the world exchanging ideas and thoughts on peace matters and concerns. It was also very interesting to note the kind of perspectives young Rwandans have towards ensuring ‘Never Again’ ”

Namiko Umeda, Japan

“We visited memorials and heard from genocide survivors, which all had profound impact on our perceptions of genocide impacts and ways of preventing it. The conference reinforced the idea of how important it is to have an international network on these issues and what we can do to support each other, especially the countries experiencing conflict. I really think the youth have the power to compel policymakers and governments to promote peace and prevent genocide.” Francesca Freeman, USA.

Peace Makers Exhibition

An important component of the Rwanda Peace Education Program was an exhibition with inspiring stories of reconciliation and peace building. This exhibition was modelled on the Kigali Genocide Memorial and has travelled to more than 17 communities. During Peace Week, the Peace Makers Exhibition was displayed in the Kigali Car Free Zone and featured stories of people who are building peace in their communities.

The three-day exhibition welcomed students from secondary schools across the country who were given the opportunity to meet and engage with peace makers. The aim of the exhibition was to share peace building stories, and to inspire and challenge the youth to become peacemakers in their own communities.



▲ Students in Rulindo touring an art exhibition of paintings, poems and drawings with a message of peace.

"We have been told stories of young people who have registered significant steps in peace building, which challenged me to think of ways to advance peace and unity in my own community. My generation has many examples of heroism and a peace minded leadership to follow" – Credia Umuhire, student from College Saint-Andre.

National School Arts Competition Exhibition

For the last three years, Aegis Trust organised a national tour of artworks produced by young people with message of peace.

The artworks were created by young people during various different peace building activities. The paintings was done during the Aegis run drawing workshop that brought together young people from all over the country in a two day training workshop. The young people were taught how to mix paint, make frames and how to paint. This was done hand in hand with a peace building training so that the young artist would not only take painting skills but also peace building skills.

The exhibition was not only composed of paintings but also poems and drawings submitted by young people as part of the 2016 National Schools Competition. The six winning poems and drawings were also written on banners so that everyone would read the messages that were given by young people.

In total, the exhibition was visited by 83,752 people in more than ten districts. Visitors also had a chance to interact with the young people whose art pieces were being exhibited. These young people explained to them what their art pieces meant and what peace is according to them.



▲ A teacher who participated in First Generation Teacher Peace Competition presents his project on integration of peace and values into the national curriculum.

"This is a good way our youth can contribute to the unity and development of the country. I wish this exhibition should reach all young people from different communities because I believe it helps them think and realise their role in the development of our country" – Mwangange Mediatrice, District Education Director in Rubavu

"A good initiative that needs to be supported by everyone" – Simparingoma Evariste, Head Teacher, GS Buyoga in Rulindo

USC Shoah Foundation Rescuer Film Screening & Conversation

During Peace Week, almost 100 people joined Josephine Dusabimana to hear the incredible story of how she rescued others during the Genocide against the Tutsi. A screening of her testimony was followed by a question and answer session with guests from USC Shoah Foundation, the Kigali Genocide Memorial and Genocide Archive of Rwanda.

First Generation Teacher Peace Competition

To highlight the importance of working together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden conducted a campaign called #FirstGeneration. In Rwanda, the Embassy of Sweden chose to focus on Goal 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. As part of the campaign, Aegis Trust and the Embassy hosted a competition with teachers on integrating peace and values into the national curriculum.



Ubumuntu International Youth Conference *All for Humanity*

As part of the Rwanda Peace Education Programme, the Aegis Trust organised the Ubumuntu International Youth Conference, which brought together more than 100 young peace builders from 16 countries.

PARTICIPANTS LEARNED ABOUT genocide and its effects, post-genocide reconstruction, and genocide prevention. They also visited memorials and reconciliation villages, and heard from leading scholars and practitioners in the areas of conflict resolution and prevention and peace building.





Rwanda Peace Education Programme

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE

