



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE “PROJET DE RENFORCEMENT DE LA COHABITATION PACIFIQUE AU RWANDA (PRORECOP)” IMPLEMENTED BY A.V.P.

Presented by

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(AVP)”

I. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Created on 6/8/1991 by 8 members of the Constituant Assembly, AVP has now more than 150 members.

AVP has been officially agreed by the Ministerial Order No 273/05 of 14 September 1991.

AVP's revised statutes have been agreed by the law No 28/2008 of 06/03/2008 and published in the Official Gazette No 13 of 01 July 2008.

I.I.MISSION AND GOALS

- Mission: Promotion and defense of human rights
- Goals:
 - I. Promote the pillars of peace namely:
 - Social justice, tolerance and fight against impunity
 - Democracy
 - Development

Cont.

2. Fight for ending divisionism factors that undermine the community
3. Create a vigilance network for the protection of human rights
4. Assist people in dangers, war victims and victims of natural disasters
5. Develop collaborative relations with other national and international associations pursuing the same goal

I.2.AVP's main activities

- Training on human rights
- Conferences-debates on themes such as tolerance and racism in Rwanda.
- Production and publication of magazines on peace culture in primary schools
- Production of radio broadcasts on the respect of human rights
- Sensitization on human rights through plays

2. PRORECOP PROJECT

- Project of reinforcing peaceful cohabitation through socio-economic reintegration of genocide survivors, released prisoners and TIG punishment implementers (common interest works assigned to genocide perpetrators on the 2nd and 3rd levels who resorted to plea and confession)
- Implemented in 27 sectors of 7 districts including Bugesera in East, Kamonyi, Nyanza, Nyaruguru and Nyamagabe in South; Karongi and Rutsiro in West.

Project Context

- While the Rwandan society faces the consequences of the 1994 genocide against Tutsis; most affected categories of Rwandans need encouraging messages.
- PRORECOP is geared to strengthen the unity of those different categories with the aim to promote their development.
- PRORECOP beneficiaries are some of Gacaca courts opponents (inclusive of released genocide perpetrators and genocide survivors; and their respective families).

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- In fact, the peaceful cohabitation among those categories (genocide perpetrators and survivors) seemed impossible due to lack of communication.
- The AVP, in its mission to preach peace culture and human rights, decided to sensitize and educate:
 - Released prisoners
 - Genocide survivors, and
 - TIG punishment implementers

In line with strengthening their peaceful cohabitation and forthright discourse.

Project goals and expected results

- Beneficiaries in 27 sectors are sensitized on peaceful cohabitation through sketches, cultural dances, and conferences-debates all along 2 years.
- 60 beneficiaries (30 genocide survivors, 20 released prisoners and 10 TIG punishment implementers) in each targeted sector are trained on peaceful cohabitation and other different themes related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

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- Common Initiative Groups (CIGs) are created by beneficiaries of the training on peaceful cohabitation and financially supported by the AVP.

3. Project achievements

3.1. Sensitization through plays presentation

- People are sensitized on the strengthening of peaceful cohabitation;
- Citizens meet on a site chosen by the sector authorities to be given AVP's messages through plays, cultural dances and debates.

The AVP's troupe publicly performing MAGIRIRANE plays in Nyamure, Muyira Sector of Nyanza District, Southern part of the country.



After the play presentation, the troupe entertains citizens with traditional dances. Amused citizens take part to the dancing.



In the debate time, after the play presentation and collective dances, participants express their appreciation and lessons learnt from the sensitization sessions.



3.2. Training on peaceful cohabitation. Participants from Gishyita Sector of Karongi District in the Western part of the country (June 2009)



In the training, groups analyze divergences existing between genocide survivors and released prisoners and suggest together possible solutions.



In a 2 days training, participants share lunch and, in the end of the training, they rejoice for the recovery of mutual trust.



◉ CIGs' activities and their micro projects

- ◉ After trainings, the AVP promises to financially support micro projects of 2 CIGs of beneficiaries who judge it necessary to start activities. In this line, 54 CIGs are financed in 27 sectors targeted by the project.
- ◉ Those micro projects operate in various areas in conformity with sectors' needs.

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- 1620 people created 54 CIGs made up by genocide survivors, released prisoners and TIG punishment implementers from 27 sectors of 7 districts of the project.
- Those micro projects run in the areas of farming, goat husbandry, cassava tree and vegetable cultivation, apiculture, water channels development, and creation of mutual assistance cooperatives, etc.

PRORECOP Operating Zone

PROVINCES	DISTRICTS	SECTORS
South	Nyaruguru	Cyahinda
		Kibeho
		Munini
		Ngera
		Ngoma
	Kamonyi	Musambira
		Rugalika
		Rukoma
		Runda
	Nyamagabe	Kaduha
		Kamegeri
		Mbazi
		Musange
	Nyanza	Kigoma
		Muyira
Ntyazo		
West	Karongi	Bwishyura
		Gishyita
		Mubuga
		Murundi
		Rubengera

A cassava field of project beneficiaries in Ntarama, Bugesera District in Eastern part of the country.



One of 10 water channels developed by one CIG from Rugarika Sector in Kamonyi District in Southern part of the country (December, 2009)



The project beneficiaries practicing the apiculture in Kamegeri Sector of Nyamagabe District in the Southern part of the country (November 2010)



Despite the dysfunction of the water channel in the Agasasa marsh in Ntyazo Sector of Nyanza District, CIG members who grow rice in that marsh are grateful for the first season harvest.



The CIG that resorted to rabbits husbandry in Cyahinda Sector of Nyaruguru District has built a rabbit hutch in one of the beneficiaries' home backyard and each of the beneficiaries brings grass to the rabbits. (Hatungimana JB explains how the CIG works).



CIG members in Mushubati sector of Rutsiro District practice goat husbandry. Each and everyone does it at their households. Members meet once a month to exchange on the project evolution. In addition, they have created a small cooperative for mutual assistance in which each gives a monthly contribution of 500 Rwandan francs.(December 2010).



Project Impact

- The beneficiaries' participation to the PRORECOP implementation explains to what extent they needed it.
- Besides beneficiaries of 2 sectors (i.e. 2/27 or 7.4 %) Nyamata of Bugesera District and Muyira of Nyanza District who fail to work together, others work closely and are even appreciated by local authorities.
- In Runda sector of Kamonyi District, women beneficiaries of the project have created a cooperative DUSASIRANE aiming at buying sleeping mattresses for their fellow neighbors who could not afford them. For them, the PRORECOP has drawn a way to the development through peaceful cohabitation.

Cont.

- AVP considers having succeeded to gather 1620 people from different hostile categories in CIGs currently organized in 27 sectors a pride and a success in the reconciliation process.



Challenges

- Insufficiency of funds to extend the project activities on other districts;
- Inability to afford field-based project staff for the day to day implementation and follow up of the project activities;
- Community conflicts resulting from some strategies to solve the genocide problems;
- Inability to meet the project beneficiaries' basic needs. Most of the project intervention areas are rural and present signs of persisting poverty due to lack of infrastructures.



Conclusion

In the beginning of the project, the achievement of such initiative was doubted due to its sensitivity and possible risks. But in the end, the project profited to not only the beneficiaries but also to the Rwandan population in general as well as to local authorities.

Cont.

- The PRORECOP contributes enormously to the reinforcement of peaceful cohabitation and to the reduction of suspicion between genocide survivors and released prisoners.
- This project funded by the Belgium Embassy in Rwanda is at its ending phase while both its beneficiaries and local authorities are claiming for its continuity.