

2010

Friends Peace House
Urugo rw'Amahoro
Annual Report



Friends Peace House /

Urugo rw'Amahoro

December 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR 2010

2010 was another full year for Friends Peace House, with activities implemented in the districts of Kicukiro, Musanze, and Kayonza, in Rwanda.

These activities ranged from workshops and festivals to debates and peace clubs, from follow-up with former participants to a General Assembly for the members of CAPR, which is the Communaute des Artisans de Paix au Rwanda. Another important activity in 2010 was a retreat for the staff of FPH; this was both a chance for staff to sit together and relax as well as an opportunity for self-evaluation and visioning for the future.

The primary beneficiaries of FPH programming are diverse. They include marginalized people, local authorities, Batwa, youth, couples in conflict, ex-prisoners, families of prisoners, Genocide survivors, teachers, students, and also former participants.

Besides the primary activities, there were some other special occasions in 2010. In April, the staff of Friends Peace House worked together to prepare for the time of Genocide Memorial. Friends Peace House was among the organizations marking the International Day of Peace in September with celebrations in Musanze. Throughout the year, FPH staff had the chance to participate in various meetings regarding peace, unity, and reconciliation.

Support of associations previously formed through different FPH activities also continued in 2010. These associations comprise the Peace Coordination Committee in



Gicumbi, the Peace Committee of Burera (APDB) in Rugarama, the Peace Committee in Bugesera, and the Peace Committee (Urumuri rw'Amahoro) in Rusizi.

We are very grateful for the continued support of our various donors as well as the tireless efforts of our staff and facilitators. And, of course, we could not do the work of peace without the full participation of our different beneficiaries. Let us remember that peace is a group effort!

SIZELI Marcellin
FPH Coordinator

PEACE EDUCATION

The Peace Education program of Friends Peace House is an important program working with a very large demographic of Rwanda's population: students. The activities of this program seek to bring awareness and understanding about peace, peaceful living, and non-violence to the youth of this country, and 2010 was no different. Among the interventions implemented, 2010 saw 6 workshops and 3 follow-ups conducted throughout Rwanda. The workshops were for students new to the programming of Friends Peace House, while the follow-up happened with groups already formed by the Peace Education department.

YOUTH

The Youth programming of Friends Peace House had a substantial year in 2010. With 6 workshops held throughout the provinces of Kicukiro, Kayonza, and Musanze, nearly 200 participants had a chance to be involved in the activities. These workshops used various curricula standard in the work of Friends Peace House: Alternatives to Violence Prevention, Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities, mediation, and leadership development.



**Youth training
Musanze District**

The impact of these workshops carried forth beyond the three days of instruction. There has been the creation of numerous Peace Clubs; different small income-generating projects have been started, in animal husbandry, motorcycle transport, and cultural activities; and finally, the group in Kayonza in particular worked together on a tomato-growing project and an animal husbandry project.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Conflict Resolution department saw another substantial year in 2010. This arm of the Friends Peace House conducted 7 workshops and 3 debates throughout Rwanda as part of its programming. The workshops used a diversity of curricula, including awareness-raising and sensitization about gender-based violence, Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities, as well as

mediation materials. The topics of the debates were just as varied and relevant to the participants involved: the struggle against corruption; development; and finally, non-violence.

The impact of these activities went well beyond simple certificates of training or participation in a debate. The focus of both the gender-based violence and mediation workshops was to work with married couples, and following the mediation instruction in particular, trained couples offered mediation to couples in conflict within their own communities. As well, because of the improvement of family situations due to reduced conflict, the education of children in trained families saw marked progress, and families were therefore able to develop themselves better, getting beyond just getting by.



**Couple's training
Kayonza District**

DURABLE PEACE

The Durable Peace Department conducted a wide variety of activities in 2010 throughout Rwanda. These activities included 6 workshops, 3 debates, 3 festivals, 3 Peace Committee meetings, as well as 1 General Assembly.

The content of these activities was as varied as the activities themselves. The workshops utilised Alternatives to Violence Prevention, Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities, and mediation curricula. In the debates, the topics were 'The struggle against corruption' and 'Development'. The different festivals incorporated testimonies and stories from many individuals transformed through their participation in FPH programming. The meetings of the Peace Committees integrated self-evaluation into their agenda, for the purpose of capacity-building.

The impact, too, of the Durable Peace Department was far-reaching in 2010. Many Peace Clubs were created. Income-generating projects were initiated due to the instruction and impetus of various activities. As well, participants of this department's activities were involved in conflict resolution in the 3 trimester meetings of the Friends Church of Rwanda.

GACACA REINTEGRATION

The Gacaca Reintegration programming of Friends Peace House continued with its very important work in 2010. This included ten workshops on various topics as well as three different follow-ups in different parts of the country. For the workshops, Alternatives to Violence Prevention, Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities, and mediation curricula were used. Follow-up happened with groups that had been formed earlier in the year.

The effect of the work of the Gacaca Reintegration department is easy to see, even beyond the participants trained in the workshops. In Kayonza, two different groups combined to form a Peace Club made up of both ex-prisoners and Genocide survivors. In Musanze, participants worked together on different manual labour for members within the group. This included fixing houses and helping to cultivate fields, especially for the most vulnerable members of the group, regardless of what side of the divide they had previously found themselves, ex-prisoner or survivor.

PEACE LIBRARY

2010 was a marvellous year for the Peace Library programme. The library has two main objectives: to operate a library that is open to the public in the community of Kicukiro, and to be an available resource for teachers, leaders, university personnel, and university students. Under the domain of the library is also the peace newsletter, created and distributed to connect peace-builders throughout the country and wider region. 2010 saw approximately 20 persons per week visiting the library, resulting in over 1000 visitors throughout the course of the year. The books in stock number 1123, including 43 new donations from various donors in 2010. All materials are recorded in detail in an electronic catalogue for precise record-keeping. The library also currently holds 12 different local newspaper subscriptions, 40 DVD films, and 45 video films. 500 copies were printed of the first issue of the Peace In Our Times/ Amahoro Mu Gihe Cyacu newsletter, with many copies distributed to various organizations and individuals working in the field of peace.

MWANANSHUTI

Mwananshuti, the FPH programme in charge of educating street children, orphans, and other vulnerable children, continued to work towards their two goals of academic and professional education in the year 2010. The five full-time staff worked with 102 students, including 61 academic students and 41 professional students. In the academic stream, the primary section was comprised of 18 students, the secondary section totaled 42 students, and one student studied at university. Of the 41 students in the professional stream, 25 were able to complete the programme and receive their certificates.

In 2010, the Mwananshuti coordinator was able to conduct 8 different family visits of current students, as well as conduct 3 debates at the centre concerning fighting against ignorance and negligence and other sources of poverty and family separation. The professional students, both current and former students, also received training in entrepreneurship and good work ethic from PAJER, with the result of 4 different associations being created in order to help youth develop themselves. In 2010 the students were able to receive food from Catholic Relief Services, which assisted with the lunchtime programme. The 30 most vulnerable children were also able to receive donations of clothing from FPH and EEAR.



**Mediators of FPH
Kicukiro District**

Testimonies

There are many testimonies of change and transformation that have come out of the various activities of 2010 Friends Peace House programming. For example, those trained in mediation indicated that they were able to use the methods they learned to bring change into their communities. Five different initiatives began after the various trainings of couples, including: a pastor's forum with pastors and their wives; the election of the dean of pastors in Ruhengeri; the creation of a pastors' association in Ruhengeri; the implementation of more debates and trainings with the

couples; and finally, the formation of Kakawete, the game of secret friends and demonstration of love, amongst these couples.

Lastly, Uwamahoro Vestine, a participant from Musanze, bore witness that she didn't know the rights and responsibilities of women, and through this lack of knowledge her family has been

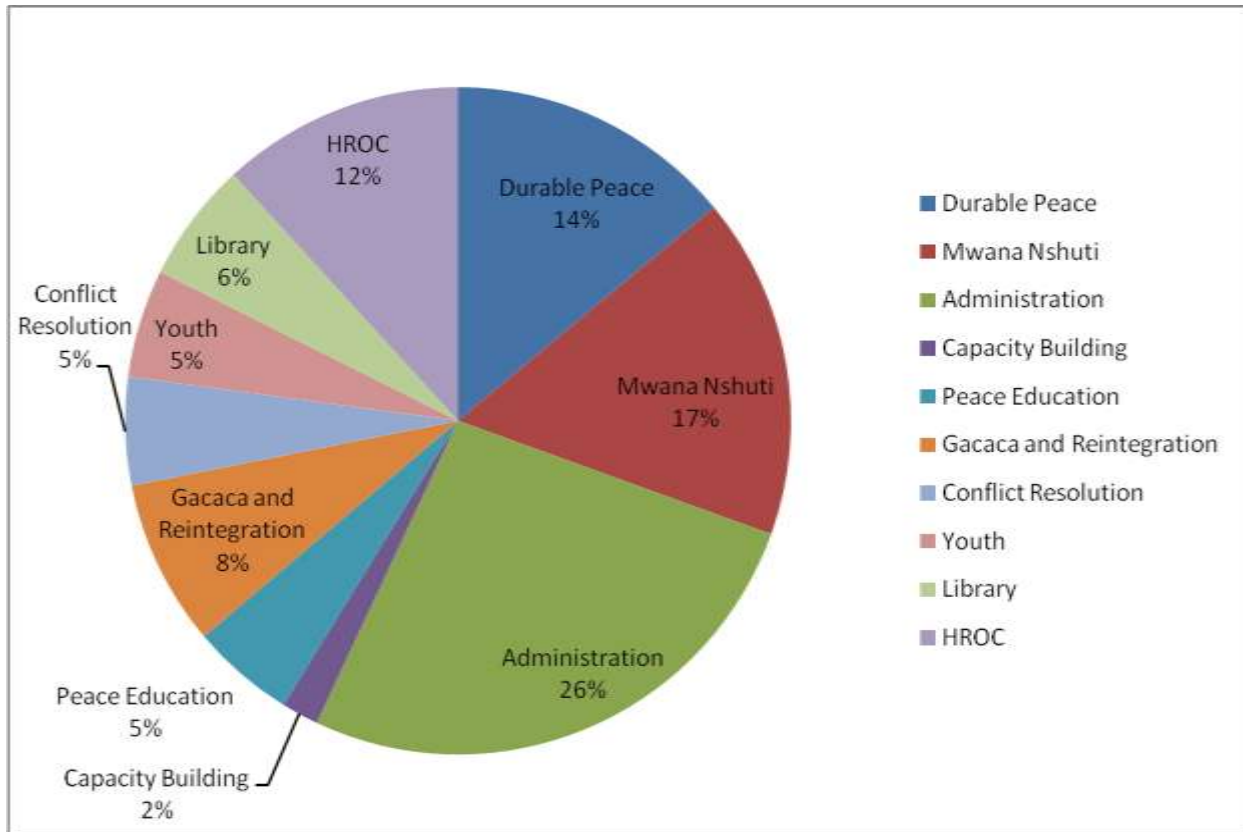


living in poverty, but on the last day of the training she received she decided to change her story for the future, to use this new awareness and understanding to move forward in her life.

Mukankaka Consolée used to be a very anti-social person. Like many widows, she had trouble sleeping, lived with much grief, and had the feeling that she was all alone. As a result of BLANK training from Friends Peace House, she was able to start approaching others, and to feel connected with other people. Her trust grew, and she was able to share her problems with her new friends. She is now a new woman, living with friends, peace, and people who truly care about her.

Mukandamutsa Juliette used to be a very quiet woman. She was traumatized and had issues with her identity. People used to call her names, and as a result she withdrew herself from society and lived quite alone. Through her coming to FPH and learning the teachings of BLANK, her wounds have been healed. She is now able to work for her family, has access to micro-credit, and has undergone amazing development and transformation.

TOTAL BUDGET 2010



Program Name

Budget Total

Durable Peace	16339
Mwana Nshuti	19466
Administration	31022
Capacity Building	2121
Peace Education	5893
Gacaca and Reintegration	9464
Conflict Resolution	6161
Youth	6161
Library	6857
HROC	13812

All amounts listed are in US dollars