

YOUTH FOR PEACEBUILDING IN BURUNDI (Y4PBB)

PROGRAM YEAR 3, QUARTER 3, APRIL – JUNE 2016

Program Title
Associate Cooperative Agreement #

Youth for Peacebuilding in Burundi (Y4PBB)
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Implementing Partner

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Table of Contents

Acronyms.....	3
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
II. POLITICAL / SECURITY CONTEXT	4
III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES.....	5
Organizational Capacity Development (OCD) Activities	6
Preparation of Y4PBB Phase Two activities	7
<i>Y4PBB Phase Two start up activities</i>	7
IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	9
V. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED	10
VI. PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER.....	10

Acronyms

AGB	<i>Association des Guides du Burundi</i> / Burundi Guides Association (Girl Scouts)
AU	African Union
BBIN	Burundi Business Incubator
CFW	Cash for Work
COOPEC	<i>Coopérative d'Epargne et de Crédit</i> / Cooperative of Savings and Credit
CPI	Counterpart International
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CECM	<i>Coopérative d'Epargne et de Crédit Mutuel</i> Cooperative of Mutual Savings and Credit
ELED	Entrepreneurship Learning Exchange Days
FNL	<i>Front National de Libération</i> / National Liberation Front
FOREBU	<i>Forces Républicaines du Burundi</i> / Burundi Republican Forces
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
JJB	<i>Jumelage Jeunesse Burundi</i> / Youth Twinning for Burundi
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MUTEC	<i>Mutuelle d'Epargne et de Crédit</i> / Savings and Credit Mutual
OCD	Organizational Capacity Development
PARCEM	<i>Parole et Actions pour le Réveil des Consciences et l'Évolution des Mentalités</i> / Words and Action for the Awakening of Conscience and Evolution of Mentality
RENAJES	<i>Reseau Nationale de Jeunes Engagés Contre le SIDA</i> / National Youth Network to Fight AIDS
UCODE	<i>Union des Coopérative pour le Développement</i> / Union of Cooperatives for Development
UNIPROBA	<i>Union pour la Promotion des Batwa</i> / Union for the Promotion of the Batwa
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VT	Vocational Training
Y4PBB	Youth for Peacebuilding in Burundi

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2014, United State Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded the Associate Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-LA -14-00007 under the Leader with Associate Cooperative Agreement No. DFD-A-00-09-00141-00 to Counterpart International (CPI), to establish the Youth for Peace-building in Burundi (Y4PBB) program. The goal of the Y4PBB program is to reduce the risk of youth participation in violence in relation to the June 2015 general elections. The program identified factors that promote peace building and activities to help reduce the risk of youth participation in violence. Per the original design, Y4PBB aims to achieve this goal through the following the three objectives:

- 1) Increased capacity of Burundian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to empower and support youth-led community mobilization;
- 2) Enhanced economic incentives for youth to participate constructively in society; and
- 3) Support youth-led peace building and violence prevention activities.

To reinforce the successes of the first phase, CPI, starting in April 2016, is implementing Phase Two of the Y4PBB program which will continue to capitalize on the impact activities around livelihoods and peacebuilding awareness raising. A summary of the activities that were achieved during this reporting quarter include:

- Organizational Capacity Development (OCD) activities: Y4PBB performed a Post-OCD evaluation with PARCEM whose suspension was recently lifted, to see how and whether it had improved its organizational capabilities, and identified current weaknesses, as a basis for future interventions. The program also organized a three-day OCD planning workshop for the five partners (PARCEM, UNIPROBA, RENAJES, AGB et JJB).
- Preparation of Y4PBB Phase Two activities: The activities include the finalization of project documents including program description with redefinition of activities and results framework, the Phase Two work plan, and the project monitoring and evaluation plan, among others.
- Y4PBB Phase Two start up activities: The program performed a Labor Market Assessment in the four new target communes (Rango, Tangara, Bugendana and Gisuru). The identification of young model entrepreneurs in the eight initial target communes was carried out by the program. Y4PBB organized consultations with some Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) to better understand how MFIs are working to facilitate access to microcredit to young entrepreneurs, and to select the best MFIs among those existing in the eight Y4PBB Communes upcountry and in Bujumbura. Consultations were also carried out with institutional partners and International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) regarding the planned job fair.

II. POLITICAL / SECURITY CONTEXT

Burundi has now spent over a year in a social and political crisis subsequent to the nomination of Pierre Nkurunziza as a candidate for the June 2015 presidential elections, which was deemed illegal by the opposition. The crisis has pushed more than 250,000 Burundians to exile, and the dead are estimated at 500 people while around 6,000 are in prison.

During this FY16 Q3 reporting period, the internal dialogue, that was described by the opposition as a “political monologue”, continued. This dialogue is facilitated internally by a national commission appointed by the Government and of which, the opposition refused to

participate in the internal dialogue process. The external dialogue between the Government and the Opposition held in Arusha, Tanzania, resumed in May. While progress was limited due to disagreements on who should attend and the agenda, the occasion was used for initial consultations on a draft agenda proposed by the mediation, which continued in the following weeks with protagonists who had not been invited to the talks. Another round of peace talks is planned from 12- 14 July, 2016.

During this time, Burundi has continued to record acts of violence, albeit with a reduced intensity compared to previous quarters. These include targeted assassinations mostly against military officers, both within the former Burundian armed forces and the former armed parties and movements. Abductions and forced disappearances continue to occur nationwide. Based on their investigations, United Nations experts who were sent to Burundi in March and June 2016 to investigate cases of human rights abuses, concluded that the security situation has improved. However, they expressed concern about the shrinking space for civil society actors and a new pattern of mass arrests.

Towards the end of this reporting period, a delegation of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Commission visited Burundi with the objective to assess the political and security situation. The commission noted improvements nationwide but recommended inclusive dialogue between the various protagonists in the Burundian conflict.

Tension between Burundi and Rwanda continued to grow due to Burundi's suspicion that Rwanda is recruiting and training rebels to attack Burundi. This has led to both countries at times expelling one another's citizens. It also worsened regional tensions with some countries choosing to support Burundi and others Rwanda. The continued political and economic crisis, along with international sanctions, has led to inflation and a sharp deterioration of the Burundian franc's value against foreign currency on the black market. This resulted in an increase in the prices of staple commodities with a negative impact on the population's livelihoods.

Despite some improvement in security, the fact that the government refuses to negotiate with the opposition can push the armed movements to organize themselves and return to intense violence. Some armed groups including FOREBU and FNL Nzabampema have already said that if politicians do not find a solution to the Burundi crisis, they will use force to restore peace in that country.

During this reporting period, despite the continued crisis, CPI initiated and implemented smoothly the start-up activities of the second phase of the Y4PBB Program.

III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Phase Two, led by the new CoP, Ms. Julie Claveau who joined CPI on May 20, 2016, will contribute towards maintaining and consolidating peace in the initial eight target communes (Gatara, Muhanga, Ruhororo, Mutaho, Buhiga, Gihogazi, Kinyinya and Giharo) and start working in four new target communes (Rango, Tangara, Gisuru, and Bugendana). These communes were selected because they are bordering the eight initial target communes and experience similar socio-political challenges while receiving limited support from other peacebuilding actors. An intervention in those will strengthen the achievements in the eight initial communes but also peace and security in these four new target communes. This will be achieved through the following activities:

Main activities	Communes	Target
Awareness-raising sessions	Rango, Tangara, Gisuru, and Bugendana	248 sessions reaching 3,720 youth
Musical concerts for peace	Rango, Tangara, Gisuru, and Bugendana	4 concerts
Dialogue sessions	Ruhoro, Muhanga, Gatara, Mutaho, Buhiga, Gihogazi, Bugendana, Rango, Giharo, Kinyinya, Gisuru, Tangara	120 sessions reaching 2,400 youth
Vocational Training	Rango, Tangara, Gisuru, and Bugendana	150 youth
Entrepreneurship training, facilitating access to microloans and mentoring in the development and implementation of viable micro-projects	Ruhoro, Muhanga, Gatara, Mutaho, Buhiga, Gihogazi, Giharo, Kinyinya and Bujumbura Mairie	450 youth
Entrepreneurship Learning Exchange Days	Ruhoro, Muhanga, Gatara, Mutaho, Buhiga, Gihogazi, Giharo, Kinyinya	At least 8 Exchange Days reaching 1,120 youth
Youth media campaign for peace (including intergenerational dialogues, the celebration of youth peace champions and support to peace committees)	Ruhoro, Muhanga, Gatara, Mutaho, Buhiga, Gihogazi, Bugendana, Rango, Giharo, Kinyinya, Gisuru, Tangara	-
Job Fair for youth	Bujumbura Mairie	-

Organizational Capacity Development (OCD) Activities

From April 12-13 2016, Y4PBB performed a Post-OCD evaluation with PARCEM whose suspension¹ was recently lifted, to see how and whether it had improved its organizational capacities and identified current weaknesses, as a basis for future interventions. Improvements were noted in several areas including, finance management, human resources management, and communication. For example, following the coaching of SFCG in Phase One, PARCEM had established a communication plan. Activities held during the first phase of the program (music concerts, mass sport, dialogue sessions, awareness sessions, training in good governance) allowed PARCEM to increase its visibility, thereby contributing to the improvement of its communication work.

This is the result of material and financial support granted by Y4PBB and its coaching. Y4PBB concretely helped in the payment of salaries of some staff members of PARCEM and provided trainings on various topics including financial management. However, it was noted that efforts are still needed in terms of gender mainstreaming in all activities of the organization.

¹ For investigation reasons related to the demonstrations that took place against the candidacy of Pierre Nkurunziza, in the 2015 Presidential elections.



The UNIPROBA team discussing their plan during the workshop, Bujumbura, May 2016

From May 10-12, 2016, the program also organized a three-day OCD planning workshop for the five partners (PARCEM, UNIPROBA, AGB, RENAJES and JJB).

Partners then submitted their Organizational Development Action Plans outlining key areas requiring improvements, persons responsible and required budget. Y4PBB will support identified priorities during Phase Two.

Preparation of Y4PBB Phase Two activities

The program developed the Phase Two work plan and project monitoring and evaluation plan for Phase Two, which was submitted to USAID on May 9, 2016².

Y4PBB Phase Two start up activities

A. Labor Market Assessment: In this second phase, Y4PBB activities are expanded to four new target communes: Rango (Kayanza province), Tangara (Ngozi province), Bugengana (Gitega province) and Gisuru (Ruyigi province). In order to better understand the economic opportunities, Vocational Training (VT) opportunities for youth and the state of the labor market in these four communes, an assessment was conducted by the CPI local team from May 16-20, 2016.

The assessment showed that there are many unemployed youth in these communes, over 150 in every commune. A large number of young school dropouts also reside in these communes and need supplementary training such as VT. The assessment showed that Bugengana and Gisuru communes have training centers which are well equipped and with experienced teachers who can train the young beneficiaries of Y4PBB. The communes of Rango and Tangara have no acceptable training centers or acceptable trainers for this work. The assessment determined what kind of training should be organized for young people in each of these communes, but also where, how to do it, and with what resources. For communes that do not have suitable vocational training centers, alternative training centers were identified in neighboring communes and supplementary transport costs were budgeted (from savings in other categories). For Tangara commune, the team identified the training center of the STAMM Foundation in Ruhororo commune. This training center had trained the young beneficiaries of Y4PBB Ruhororo commune during the first phase. For Rango commune, two training centers were identified: the training center of Mbuye commune and the training center of Gitongo in Mutaho commune, the latter also provided training for young beneficiaries of Y4PBB during the first phase.

B. Identification of young model entrepreneurs in the eight initial target communes: In each commune, Y4PBB plans to support 50 young models among those who participated in the CFW activities, benefited from VT or have been trained in modern techniques of brick-making under the Kazoza innovation grant in Phase One. These are mainly beneficiaries who have started a micro-business or some form of income-

² An updated version of the work plan was submitted on July 22, 2016.

generating activity. The identification of these young models took place from June 13 - 17, 2016, through a participative approach involving the said beneficiaries from Phase One (all candidates were grouped into a room and asked to choose from among themselves 50 persons they consider as models based on set criteria), and in collaboration with the local administration and CSO partners. CPI identified a total of 400 young models in the eight target communes (of which 43.5% are female youth). The selected youth will receive basic training in entrepreneurship and will be connected to micro finance institutions in order to obtain loans to grow their small business.

The table below provides the number of chosen young model per commune and per sex:

No	Commune	Male	Female	Total	M %	F %
1	Giharo	31	19	50	62	38
2	Gihogazi	24	26	50	48	52
3	Kinyinya	30	20	50	60	40
4	Buhiga	28	22	50	56	44
5	Ruhororo	29	21	50	58	42
6	Gatara	30	20	50	60	40
7	Muhanga	30	20	50	60	40
8	Mutaho	24	26	50	48	52
	TOTAL	226	174	400	56,5	43,5

A transparent selection process

NGENZIRABONA Prime, the Development Technical Adviser of Giharo commune was delighted by the selection procedure of the youth models: *"My observation was that the selection was conducted transparently. The criteria and selection tools were well prepared, and this in advance. The sorting was done in front of me. Even the greatest cheaters in the world would not have had the opportunity to be selected if they did not fulfill the required conditions"*.

- C. Consultations related to the Job Fair:** The Y4PBB team held consultations with governmental and nongovernmental institutions, in order to create a space for exchange around employment opportunities between employers and young people in search of employment, promote youth employment, and analyze the relevance and feasibility of a Job Fair in the current context. The Y4PBB team collected information related to job fairs organized in the past based on previous experiences, lessons learned and challenges through meetings with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the Burundian Observatory of Employment and Labor, the Association of Employers and Industrialists of Burundi, the Investment Promotion Agency, the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi, the Burundi Business Incubator (BBIN) and the UMUCE (linked to the INGO Spark). The meetings confirmed the relevance and feasibility of a job fair despite the challenging political and economic context and the team will continue its reflection on the best approach.
- D. Consultations with Microfinance Institutions (MFIs):** Phase Two plans to support beneficiaries' access to loans through agreements with MFIs and the provision of a credit or guarantee fund to help cover the risks. The Y4PBB Management team has initiated consultations with the COOPEC and UCODE, which are the main MFIs with which the Y4PBB program has worked during the first phase, as well as with MUTECH,

the CECM and INYISHU MICROFINANCE, which are the main MFIs operating in the capital Bujumbura. A selection process will be launched in the next quarter.

- E. Gender and social inclusion:** The Gender Specialist, with the support of the Headquarter Gender and Social Inclusion Expert, started updating the Y4PBB Gender Mainstreaming Policy outlining key principles underlying Counterpart's work for gender equality and which embraces gender integration as a strategy to advance the goal of gender equality in the Y4PBB Phase Two program. They also started developing the Gender Integration Guidelines for partners; these documents will be available next quarter. They also worked on the preparation of two workshops for Y4PBB partners. The first, planned for next quarter, will be on the Gender Integration Guidelines to ensure gender integration in all activities and through the lifecycle of the project. The second one will be part of OCD support and will focus on the development of gender integration strategies at the organization level.
- F. Preparatory activities relating to the issuance of sub-awards:** The team developed a closed Request for Applications which will be issued next quarter to Phase One partners in order to select implementing partners for each activities.

IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During this reporting period, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) department conducted a study to assess the Phase One program Indicator 2.4. Indicator 2.4 looked at *the number of youth who have found a job or initiated an income-generating activity three months after completing the VT program*. The study showed that 181 youth have either found a job or initiated self-employment activities such as bricklaying, carpentry, sewing, mechanics, welding, (48% of which are females) thus going above the target of 165 youth.

The table below provides the number of young people who had found a job three months after VT, per commune and per sex:

COMMUNE	M	F	Total	M%	F%
Buhiga	12	12	24	50	50
Gatara	10	0	10	100	0
Giharo	11	18	29	37.9	62.1
Kinyinya	14	14	28	50	50
Mutaho	10	15	25	40	60
Ruhororo	13	8	21	61.9	38.1
Total	94	87	181	51.9	48.1

The study also highlighted that 87% of those who were employed (157 youth) did so through self-employment (either individual or in groups), showing the importance of ensuring that VT beneficiaries also have the required entrepreneurial skills and basic equipment to start their own income-generating activity. This proves once again the scarcity of jobs, even made worst in the current context where many businesses had to significantly downsize their staff, and the need for youth to create their own employment.

The study further revealed significant variations in employment rates from one commune to another and between the types of training received. For example, 92% of beneficiaries in Buhiga commune were employed, but this rate dropped to 33% in Gatara. Similarly, 100% of beneficiaries trained in mixed hairdressing, cooking and baking were employed but only 14% of those trained in welding and none of those trained in woman hairdressing were employed. The study also showed that those who work in sewing have a small monthly income (less than

\$ 7) while those who have done training in computer science or mechanics have a high monthly income compared to others (more than \$ 35). Reasons given for being unemployed or having a low income often related to the lack of running cost funds (e.g. to rent a room where to set up the business or to buy fuel for the generator) or lacking equipment. Phase Two of Y4PBB will address this challenge through facilitating access to loans from MFIs.

V. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The program did not face any major challenge this quarter. However, most MFIs have not been very responsive during the consultation process and this is likely to make the microloan component more challenging than initially envisioned. In addition, many of them are reticent to work with vulnerable youth, especially in Bujumbura Mairie, due to the high risks associated with this clientele in general, but also, especially in Bujumbura Mairie, with the recent crisis where youth have been very unstable (changing neighborhood, leaving the country, going in hiding, etc.) as a result of insecurity prevailing in Burundi since April 2015 following the nomination of Pierre Nkurunziza as the CNDD-FDD candidate in the presidential elections of June 2015. This nomination was deemed illegal by the opposition. Demonstrations were organized against this nomination, and the Government has adopted harshly punitive measures against those who had participated in these demonstrations, most of whom were young people. Moreover, in terms of challenges, further delays in the approval of the work plan would cause a delay in the overall implementation of activities.

Lessons learned relating to VT have been identified through the Indicator 2.4 assessment as described above. The study confirmed that a majority of VT beneficiaries were able to acquire an income following the trainings and receipt of kits. However, it highlighted the need to focus on self-employment and therefore the importance of continuing to offer entrepreneurship trainings and start-up kits in Phase Two for new VT beneficiaries. Also, there are significant variations in employment rates from one commune to another and between the types of training received. It is then important to choose vocational training sections tailored to the beneficiaries' home communes but also that allows for decent revenues.

VI. PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

Over the next three months, Y4PBB plans to launch the closed Request for Applications and sign sub-awards with CSO partners for the implementation of the following activities: awareness-raising sessions, dialogue sessions, VT, follow-up of microloans beneficiaries and Entrepreneurship Learning Exchange Days (ELED). The implementation of those activities is planned to start at the end of Q4, depending on when the sub-awards will be effectively signed.

In July, Y4PBB will proceed with the identification of the 150 beneficiaries of VT in the four new communes, and of the 50 beneficiaries for entrepreneurship activities in Bujumbura (training and access to loans).

Concurrently, Y4PBB will continue the preparation of the job fair (planned for December 2016), and select the MFIs for the microloan component. Y4PBB will also facilitate the establishment and guidance of peace committees; and begin intergenerational dialogues to be broadcasted on community radios. Peace committees will be composed by young pillars of peace that followed the various mobilization and advocacy for peace activities, organized by CPI. Covering different zones of the target communes, their role will be to collect information related to peace and security, exchange on the information and / or forward them to the implementing partner for adequate treatment. The implementing partner may direct the information to the administrative or security authorities and work with them to find solutions. Intergenerational dialogues are discussion sessions between youth and adults on issues that divide them. For

example: Adults accuse young people of committing violence during the electoral period and young people say that it is adults who manipulate them. We can take as a theme, "The role of each other in violence in the election period, what solution? " Elders will bring an historical perspective to the topics discussed and share their wisdom. To share the discussions with others who will not participate, these dialogues will be broadcasted on two community radios.

In addition, CPI will finalize the Gender Mainstreaming Policy as well as the Gender Integration Guidelines for CSO partners.

Finally, the Y4PBB program will organize three workshops for CSOs partners:

- Communications: To update the communication messages and tools for awareness-raising and dialogue activities and train the facilitators from partner organizations;
- M&E: To brief partners on the M&E tools and techniques to be used during the Y4PBB Phase Two; and
- Gender and social inclusion: Train the partners on the Gender Integration Guidelines.