

CARSA



**CHRISTIAN ACTION FOR RECONCILIATION
AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE (CARSA)**

B.P 3408 Kigali/Rwanda

Tél : (+250) 08 47 39 51 / 08 49 61 40 / 08 63 56 72

E-mail : carsa_ministry@yahoo.fr

www.carsa.org.rw

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

December 2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all we thank Almighty God, who safely took care of us throughout the year 2005 and made us able to have achievements mentioned in this report.

These achievements would not have been possible without a joint effort of several people. Therefore we are grateful to the organisations and individuals for their contribution in one way or another to let our plan work.

We are very thankful to AEE/Rwanda, especially to its Executive Secretary, Mr. Antoine RUTAYISIRE, who devoted his precious time for lavishing very useful pieces of advice on us. May the whole staff of AEE/Rwanda receive our expression of gratitude, notably Mr. Joseph NYAMUTERA, the Coordinator of Evangelisation Department, for his encouraging us to go ahead with reconciliation.

We would like to thank World Vision Rwanda (WVR), which helped us in various ways through its Peace Building, Healing and Reconciliation Department.

We also thank Union of University Biblical Groups in Rwanda (UBGR) for their contribution to the achievement of our programme.

All the Christians are thanked for their constant prayers addressed to God in request for reconciliation in Rwanda.

May God bless you all.

Christophe MBONYINGABO

Executive Secretary

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ABREVIATIONS

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO CARSA

III. VISION

IV. MISSION

V. VALUES

VI. SUBJECTIVES

6.1. OVERAL OBJECTIVE

6.2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

VII. FIELD OF ACTIVITY

VIII. ACHIEVEMENTS

IX. CONSTRAINTS

X. LEARNED LESSONS

XI. IMPACTS

CONCLUSION

I. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period from January 1st to December 31st, 2005. It contains the Christian Action for Reconciliation and Social Assistance's achievements. It consists of trauma healing and reconciliation, one of the main concerns of the organisation, and fight against HIV/AIDS. It's realizations were based on prevention of divisionist ideology, reconciliation and social welfare promotion among Rwandan youth. The report succinctly describes the activities that had been projected for their execution period as well as those which were realized without being foreseen.

The report also analyses the impact of these activities on the community. Finally it gives some possible perspectives for future to be carried out thanks to experiences.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CARSA

CARSA was founded in Rwanda in 2002 with the objective of promoting reconciliation, reconstruction and consolidation of a peaceful society with a culture of peace, dialogue, solidarity and social welfare. It got its legal status on 6/10/2004 by ministerial order n°111/11. Its registered office is in Kacyiru district, Kigali city council. It is composed of 13 actual members: 5 women and 8 men.

III. VISION

To have a society where peace, solidarity and unity in diversity is established.

IV. MISSION

To participate in fight against divisionist ideology and promotion of social welfare through Rwandan youth.

Too many organisations may share this mission but may focus on different aspects. Therefore complementarity (in this case) is indispensable since it is difficult to work for holistic development in isolation.

The order and harmonization of activities in this mission or a synergy of efforts in the actions sounds constraining and compulsory.

V. VALUES

Transformed by Christ's gospel;

Devotion;

Commitment;

Determination;

Compassion;

Faithful personnel;

Young, educated and dynamic personnel.

VI. OBJECTIVES

6.1. Overall Objective

To part-take in the nation reconstruction by promotion of citizens' attitudes and cooperative behaviour in their holistic development.

6.2. Specific Objectives

- To promote the reconciliation and peace culture;
- To promote health and to fight against HIV/AIDS;
- To promote a sustainable development and to fight against poverty.

VII. FIELD OF ACTIVITY

CARSA focuses its activity on all categories of people, but mainly deals with the youth, notably students.

Among young people, CARSA mostly invests its efforts in the following subjects:

- Healing of traumatic wounds and reconciliation;
- Social assistance in various forms;
- Reinforcement of youth's capacity for job creation.

VII. PLANNING AND ACHIEVEMENTS

7.1. Planning

At the beginning of the year 2005, CARSA projected 12 seminars on trauma healing and reconciliation, as well as their follow-up and evaluation; 2 conferences on youth's role in reconciliation; one evaluative meeting with a few students coming from different universities, who have got experience in healing of traumatic wounds and reconciliation.

In addition 2 training programmes of volunteers about home base care to HIV positive people in their respective households were foreseen.

All these seminars were led by 3 facilitators and 5 volunteers.

Finally, in order to reinforce human resources capacity and CARSA volunteers also to exchange ideas with others dealing in the same domain, 6 training programmes were scheduled in several domains such as healing, counselling, development and HIV/AIDS.

7.2. Achievements

a. Planned activities

- 14th –16th January 2005: Retreat of CARSA's staff and members at Kibagabaga to plan activities for the execution period 2005.
- 15th –18th February 2005: Seminar on traumatic wound healing and reconciliation in favour of 52 young people of which 20 were genocide survivors, 15 former FAR and 17 former RDF demobilised soldiers.

The seminar took place in Bugesera region, Ngenda district in Kigali Ngali Province.

- 3rd –5th March 2005: Seminar on trauma healing and reconciliation, which gathered 30 students from Kigali Institute of Education (KIE). This number was made of 10 girls and 14 boys, and 6 students in training at YWAM, who came from England, Canada, USA and China.

- 21st-25th March 2005: Two of CARSA's facilitators attended a retreat organized by the Evangelisation Department of AEE/Rwanda at Byumba.

- 25th –27th March 2005: Seminar on trauma healing and reconciliation organized for 50 students from National University of Rwanda's Biblical Group.

- 1st-3rd April 2005: Seminar for 35 students from different universities and High Education Institutions of Rwanda. This seminar was held in AEE/Rwanda's hall at Kabeza.

- 28th April- 1st May 2005: Seminar for a group of 50 students named Pentecostal students fellowship of the National University of Rwanda.

- 9th –14th May 2005: CARSA's facilitators got trained as educators about home base care to HIV positive people. The training was organized by AEE/Rwanda.

- 20th –22nd May 2005: Seminar for 50 pupils from " Saint Joseph le Travailleur" secondary school, former JOC/Kigali.

- 30th- 31st May 2005: Training of 30 volunteers of CARSA about home base care to people who are HIV positive. It took place at Kanombe district, Nyarugunga sector, Kamashashi cell.
- 30th –1st June 2005: Three of CARSA's facilitators got a training on counselling organized by EL-EZER Ministry at Kacyiru.
- 10th –12th June 2005: Seminar of traumatic wound healing and reconciliation for the benefit of 30 students of Busogo Institute of Agriculture and Livestock (ISAE/ Busogo).
- 20th –24th June 2005: Four of CARSA's facilitators got trained on development organized by AEE/Rwanda in Kigali.
- 8th –10th July 2005: Seminar on traumatic wound healing and reconciliation for the benefit of 30 students from KIST students Biblical Group (GBU).
- 14th –17th July 2005: Seminar for the benefit of 80 pupils from Bigugu secondary school in Nshili district, Gikongoro Province.
- 18th –21st July 2005: Seminar for the benefit of 50 pupils from Gahunga secondary school, in Bukamba district, Ruhengeri Province.
- 25th –30th August 2005: Two of CARSA's facilitators got trained as trainers (T.O.T) on healing of memories organized by Healing of Memories Institute of South Africa in collaboration with World Vision Rwanda. It took place at Kigufi in Nyamyumba district, Gisenyi province.

- 2nd –4th September 2005: Traumatic wound healing and reconciliation seminar for the benefit of 30 pupils from King David Academy in Kanombe district.
- 3rd September 2005: Meeting of 35 students coming from different Universities of Rwanda. It took place in CARSA's office at Kacyiru.
- 12th –16th September 2005: Two of CARSA's facilitators got trained as trainers (T.O.T) concerning healing and reconciliation organized by AEE/Rwanda. It took place at Kabgayi /Gitarama.
- 16th –18th September 2005: Seminar for the benefit of 40 pupils, 3 teachers and the discipline maintaining agent of IFBK secondary school at Kacyiru, Kigali City.
- 17th –18th September 2005: Follow up and evaluation of seminar and conference on youth's role in reconciliation. The meeting gathered pupils of Gahunga secondary school, in Ruhengeri.
- 7th –9th November 2005: Traumatic wound healing and reconciliation seminar for the benefit of 52 pupils of Gacuba /TTC in Gisenyi.
- 10th November 2005: conference on role of the youth in reconciliation for the benefit of future students gathered is Nkumba/ Ruhengeri solidarity camp.

Some planned activities were not realized because of lack of financial means.

b. Non-planned realization

- 16th –20th May 2005: A facilitator of CARSA's participated in elaboration of training module about traumatic healing and reconciliation held at Byumba in collaboration with Evangelisation Department of AEE/Rwanda.
- 2nd –3rd July 2005: Traumatic wound healing and reconciliation seminar for the benefit of 10 members of AEE/Rwanda prayer group called 'Abarinzi b'inkike'.
- 25th –26th July 2005: Traumatic wound healing and reconciliation seminar for the benefit of 50 orphans assisted by AEE/Rwanda. It took place at YWAM/ Samuduha, Kanombe district, Kigali city council.
- 11th –12th August 2005: Conducting a seminar about healing and reconciliation for the benefit of 70 pastors of ADEPR of Ruhengeri region organized by the Legal Representation of the church.
- 21st –23rd August 2005: Conducting a seminar about healing and reconciliation for the benefit of 60 pastors of ADEPR from Mashasha sub-region, in Cyangugu province.
- 5th –6th September 2005: Conducting a seminar on healing and reconciliation aimed at 95 pastors and chapel leaders of ADEPR of Bugesera sub- region, Kigali Ngali province.

- 13th –15th September 2005: Conducting a seminar about healing and reconciliation aimed at 85 pastors and chapel responsible of Kabuga sub-region, Kigali Ngali province.
- 27th –28th September 2005: Conducting a seminar about healing and reconciliation aimed at 30 helpers of street-children of BAMPOREZE association. It was held at Kanombe, Kigali city council.
- 5th –8th October 2005: Conducting a seminar aimed at 50 pastors of EMLR on the role of the church in GACACA court. It was held in Ruhengeri and organized by the Legal Representation of the Church.
- 17th –20th November 2005: seminar on traumatic wound healing and reconciliation for the benefit of 45 pastors and deacons from Cyarwa parish, ADEPR/Butare.

VIII. CONSTRAINTS

9.1. Internal Constraints

Although there are a lot of achievements, some constraints have been observed.

- A high demand, but a weak supply. The work is constantly increasing as activities are being extended to different category of people.
- Insufficient personnel, office equipment and land as there are not enough financial means to afford them.
- The organization does not have funds to secure the personnel's needs in order for them to work with efficiency.

9.2.External constraints

- Rwandan culture does not encourage people to speak about their traumatic wounds;
- A large number of people do not give (much) importance to traumatic wound healing and reconciliation.

IX. LEARNED LESSONS

- Reconciliation of Rwandan population is possible if all initiative focuses on and stresses all the traumatic wounds healing.
- The involvement of the church in traumatic wounds healing and reconciliation would bring about efficiency evolution, and the impact would be greater.
- In order to help Rwandan children inherit a nation different from the one of the past years, it is indispensable to eradicate over turning ethnic conflict and divisionist ideology among Rwanda youth;
- Rwandan reconciliation is the inescapable basis to sustainable development of the country and one of the pillars of peace in the Great Lakes region.

IX. IMPACTS

All the achievements have got an important impact not only on the direct beneficiaries but also on the whole Rwandan society as shown by recorded testimonies here below.

Some recorded testimonies

1. A 18 years old girl whose leg was cut off during genocide told us the following:

“ I could neither greet nor share anything with a Hutu subject because whenever I walk with crutches, I remember that it was they who cut off a leg of mine. But now I forgive them all, even their offspring. In addition, I could not pray in the church where my leg was cut off and my relatives were savagely slain, nor could I get close to it. But now I am able to visit or pray in that church.”

This lady uses a crutch for distant walking and the prosthesis for a short trip. Here she is using the prosthesis.

2. A 22 years old woman, a genocide survivor, declared:

My elder brother and I are genocide survivors. As I was too young during the genocide, I did not feel any hatred to Hutu despite what they had done to us. When I was 14, in sixth form primary school, I got a Hutu boyfriend aged 20, who impregnated me. We were compelled to cohabit; but some time later he was influenced by his relatives and friends saying that he had committed an unforgivable sin to get married to a Tutsi girl. He completely changed his ways towards me.

Hence he could come back home late at night; and wherever he reached home, he used to beat and abuse me. One year later he sold everything and

abandoned me with my 4 months old baby. Then after I was expelled from the house we used to live in since I was unable to afford the rent.

I was obliged to go and live with my elder brother, who did not allow me in his house with the child of an "Interahamwe", my brother's own term for my husband. All these contributed to let me have a great hatred to Hutu people. This seminar has helped me understand the origin of prejudice that Hutus have about Tutsi, and vice versa; therefore I have understood why my husband treated me the way he did. Now I start forgiveness process. >>

3. After the seminar, a 35 years old man from Gisenyi said:

<< During the 1997 war, I saw the Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR) killing my brothers. This led me to hate all the Tutsi subjects and any one who had direct or indirect link with them. This seminar has helped me understand the origin of prejudice that Tutsis, have about Hutu and vice versa, and its consequences.

On the other hand, I was amazed to see Tutsis being sympathetic. This reminded me that Tutsis were also killed in other parts of the country. I feel relieved. I forgive all who have directly or indirectly contributed to my brothers' death. I am convinced that we are all brothers and commit myself to fight for reconciliation of Rwandans. >>

4. A 43 years old man told us the following:

" I am a 1994 genocide survivors. Interahamwe attempted many times to kill me but I was rescued. Because of this I fell into an acute trauma. I lost all confidence in anybody and all hope for future. I tried to comfort myself by following some theological teachings and adhering to different churches, but nothing changed within me. I got married to a Hutu girl when I was 40, just because I did not like to be despised. I never had any love to my wife, so my

household was miserable, without peace, security, mutual inter-action and joy. My wife did her best to make me happy but all her effort was fruitless. Thanks to this seminar; I have discovered the source of my lack of tolerance and misunderstanding. I have got peace that theological teachings failed to give me. And from now on I forgive every body who persecuted me, and my household is restored”.

As illustrated by the photo above, the man gave this testimony in the presence of his wife, who testified that that evening would not be forgotten because when they came to the seminar they had not been talking to each other for 3 days.

Then she said that she had decided to kill herself because she could not bear it any longer.

Later on she came to testify that they had reconciled with each other and renewed their marriage contract; and ever since their home has become an ideal one.

5.A twenty-three years old young boy (the first from left to right on the picture below) told us the following:

“My elder brother and I are genocide survivors. Five years after the genocide, my elder brother got married to a lady who returned from Uganda. That lady mistreated me so much that I hated every body who came from Uganda, as well as any thing that had connection with them, such as English, Luganda and Ugandan food like Kawunga (maize paste), Matooke (bananas) I could not even pray in the churches they attended. But this seminar has released me from hatred I had and now I forgive my elder brother’s wife”.

6. A twenty-two years old girl said, “

We were four children in our family. In 1994, Hutus killed my parents my two brothers and sister. I survived after I had been wounded and thrown into a pit a long with some deads. It was RPA, which got me out of the pit. Ever since I hated Hutus that I would not accept to share a bed with a Hutu girl in our boarding school. I was never happy, I was always worried. I could always fall sick during genocide anniversary period in April. But the message I have heard in this seminar has sincerely transformed me and I forgive the Hutus.”

Three months later, we went to visit this girl and she told us the following:

“After your seminar, I went to meet the person who threw me into the pit, as he has been released from prison because he confessed his role in genocide and asked for forgiveness. I told him that I forgive him. I feet comfortable.”

CONCLUSION

As you can notice throughout this report, Rwandan society members are suffering from the aftermath of wars and genocide at different levels. The majority of people deal with physical consequences but ignore the psychic effects of our history that trouble almost all Rwandans' daily life.

CARSA, with its feable means, focuses its efforts on traumatic wound healing, reconciliation and fight against divisionist ideology in diverse forms within the Rwandan youth. It is very possible that if nothing is done in this context, our country will sooner or later undergo other tragic events. To hope for a peaceful nation with a culture of peace and solidarity, we must break that vicious circle. This cannot happen unless hands are joined to work in this domain. We must sacrifice our selfish interests at the benefit of the nation. It is high time to come in.