

ACPDH is a human rights organisation working in Burundi and is the Winner of Ockenden International Prize 2015

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**ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE POUR LA PROMOTION ET  
LA PROTECTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME**

**« A.C.P.D.H. »**

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# A HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY ACPDH NGO IN BURUNDI

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**Duration of the Project: 2017-2019**

**Promoting and protecting human rights within  
community, partners and donors commitment in  
Burundi**

## **A Humanitarian Plan of Action 2017-2019**

**Main Partners:** UN AGENCIES: UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, OHCDH, PAM and UNOCHA

**Government of Burundi:** The Ministry of human rights, Gender and social affairs, The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, Commission Nationale des Terres et autres Biens-CNTB and The Human Rights National Commission-CNIDH

**Bujumbura, May 2017**

## **I. INTRODUCTION.**

In Burundi, as in other countries in the Great Lakes region or even in Africa in general, human rights are violated on a daily basis, and the victims most affected are communities at the grassroots level. The presence and the birth of non-governmental human rights organizations in Burundi constitute a force to fight against these violations of human rights. Unfortunately, the latter deal with the issue of human rights in the broadest sense. In other words, the well-defined policy directed towards grass-roots communities is not clearly elaborated either by these non-governmental organizations or by local public services, for example at the commune level.

It is with this in mind that the founding members of the ACPDH organization wanted to define a Community policy which will essentially affect the basic communities in the field of human rights where there are many human rights violations but which unfortunately have gone unnoticed in most cases. Our interventions in this field will be articulated around 11 strategic points which are developed below in a synthetic way.

This action plan is global for the duration of the association ACPDH and commits all its personnel including the provincial focal points who naturally act as partners in the field and interact with all partners in a particular area concerned by the action plan and whose response is purely humanitarian.

## **II. OUR MAIN AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

The specific objectives of the ACPDH are to:

- Create and foster grassroots leadership for the promotion and protection of human rights
- Promote the freedoms of the victims of human rights violation and injustice and that for the most vulnerable people
- Sensitize, train, inform and educate grassroots communities on the culture of democratic citizenship
- Establishing local structures for the management of human rights within communities through human rights defenders network such local focal points in cities and rural areas
- Observe, denounce and publish the facts of human rights violations reported or observed in the country's socio-professional areas
- Maintain exchanges of experience with other national and international human rights organizations
  - Empowering strong and inclusive communities specifically people who are mostly affected by conflict(refugees/returnees and IDPs and people with disabilities)

### **III. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR 3 YEARS (2017-2019)**

Thus, the Plan of Action is summarized in 3 general principles (3Ps) namely the

1. Promotion of human rights
2. Protection of people's human rights
3. Prevention of violations of human rights.

All these topics are detailed in 11 points of strategic actions that will be developed through GBVs, Disability and human rights issues including Children's rights activities and Protection is here the main topic for this one point of the action plan 2017-2019

Other important topics such as Education, Governance, Peace building and reconciliation, Community Livelihoods and development for returnees and IDPs, Sexual rights of young people and reproductive health, Human rights trainings and awareness raising, Capacity building and organisational development, Communication and visibility materials are also emphasized as main goals and impact to achieve for this 2017-2019 civil society human rights action plan. These human rights issues are very important to be implemented and empowered among Burundian communities who are currently in a high level of need of protection if considering the political conflict which has been erupted since 2015 during elections period.

The civil society human rights action plan 2017-2019 that ACPDH is presenting to donors and partners is here bellow detailed as following:

#### **1. Promoting and protecting human rights in all dimensions**

Here, measures to combat human rights violations through awareness-raising, training, monitoring and documentation, information sharing will be taken and done by ACPDH through its intern and wide national human rights defenders network- national focal human rights focal points from provinces.

#### **2. Promoting and protecting the rights of women and children**

General guidelines for an advocacy plan for community protection have already been taken by ACPDH and now need to be supported financially and help us this to be implemented. In clearer terms, these are advocacy actions for the development of equal opportunities policy at commune level with regards to the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children at Community level by Local public services. Moreover, violence against women and children is due to the lack of awareness of the authorities and leaders but also to the civic commitment of each citizen. The ACPDH will set up bodies that are trained in these areas in order to face of all this violence and to develop adequate humanitarian responses with the support of partners and donors ready to finance this program in Burundi.

### **3. Promoting and protecting the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, conscience and participation in public affairs**

Here, it is a question of giving the population and the media the freedom to express their opinions, to give their views on the actions or points observed, experienced or observed that do not promote human development from the social, economic or cultural point of view. Political and religious life and to take part in public affairs without any discriminations.

### **4. Conflict prevention and peace building and treatment of their consequences**

The aim here is to establish a Community policy for good neighbourliness by using traditional and local teaching methods. Measures to counter intolerance based on law, education, access to training and information, individual awareness, sustainable local solutions, etc. Are provisions that the ACPDH will undertake under this program.

### **5. Pay special attention to the needs of older people and children in difficulty, as well as the needs of people with disabilities**

In Burundi, only intellectuals are protected or covered by the social security services when they reach the age of retirement. At the level of the ACPDH, a program intended for people in old age and disability will be carefully studied in order to be able to attend the victims of these situations in a peasant environment with care because those people are not provided any public social service. These are farmers and ranchers in rural areas through pilot actions. As regards programs for children in difficulty-CWDs, Street Kids, etc. , ACPDH should, at the level of the commission in charge of this issue, determine all the forms of assistance and assistance from the first need and consider other intermediate solutions aimed at a lasting reintegration through the Education and protection systems.

### **6. Fight against all forms of violence against women and children.**

The program is developed in the documents available at ACPDH policies and in accordance of National strategy for Gender Based Violence and Child Protection Policy in the government of Burundi. These violations include physical and sexual violence (beaten women or men), physical and sexual harassment in the workplace; Corporal punishment of children, etc. To end this, ACPDH will reproduce and popularize widely these documents to challenge each individual or community to effectively fight against this unwanted violence among Burundi communities.

### **7. Sensitize local public structures to integrate the communal emancipation policy to promote the balanced participation of men and women in the local consultative bodies (Gender Sensitivity and Promotion-THE GSP)**

To undertake this activity, ACPDH with our partners should first analyse the composition of the various municipal consultative bodies at the level of all administrative structures (police, magistrates, etc.)

However, this program can only be carried out with the support of the government in all its structures and in particular with the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender and the Ministry having the inside in their attributions; And of course with the support of the PTFs and other donors.

### **8. Promote equal opportunities for girls and boys in the education system, accessibility and management of family assets**

Family community is a nucleus for child education. That is why ACPDH will educate the community on children's rights within family's commitment in order to protect children from abuse, violence, and neglect, child maltreatment in most households or institutions environment.

### **9. Giving sustained attention to girls and women in the context of preventive health policy**

These actions focus mainly on training and information on health issues that affect girls and women specifically. Here, we will seize every opportunity, especially those that involve a change in lifestyle to give health information: pregnancy, childbirth, abortion, etc. Significant health issues such as HIV / AIDS, sexual and reproductive health rights, certain forms of drug abuse among young people, etc.

### **10. Organize short and training courses (2-3 weeks) on human rights and democratic citizenship in Burundi**

This is a necessity if we take into account the inadequacy of the human rights activists in our country. The experience is only a few decades old with some national organizations such as the League of Human Rights "ITEKA" and a few other organizations that have followed, it is necessary to demonstrate that the people of Burundi is able of doing things as to other African, European or American nations, etc. who have already marked a significant step forward for the promotion and protection of human rights. In this perspective, ACPDH intends to contribute in this direction by its so-called community approach. It will be necessary to collaborate with public or private institutions, especially universities in the country and abroad, with the support of partners and donors to ensure that this training program is successful. Following the current crisis, many of human rights organisations and activists have fled the country and many of them have been closed up by the government and only ACPDH is currently still working with many challenges-financial as organisational development capacity among other logistic matters. Trough out this programme, the staff and members could increase their capacity skills and knowledge and bring more changes in the country regarding human rights matters in Burundi.

### **11. Organize sensitizations, trainings and education visits to the values of peace and respect for human rights for internally displaced people, refugees and returnees in Burundi**

This action will focus on the twinning activity between IDP sites and refugee camps with regard to the exchange of information on reconciliation, peaceful coexistence, respect for fundamental values, land peaceful Conflict resolution, mutual acceptance and strengthening of socio-economic capacities of households among returnees and IDPs and finding lasting solutions for their reintegration into normal, peaceful and stable lives.

The first steps are to identify these people, their needs and ultimately, their problems in order to proceed with the possible solutions.

This program will help to harmonize and accompany these groups of populations affected by the conflicts in relation to their situation and the general situation of the country from the social, economic, security and peace aspects.

In order to carry out this action, ACPDH will have to come into contact with the local and international partners and donors, public institutions, in particular the Ministry in charge of the issue of displaced persons and refugees and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the Coordination of Refugees Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) within presence in Burundi.

## **IV. Geographical areas of intervention**

ACPDH is a community-based organization for the protection of human rights and plans to establish local representation structures called Provincial focal points (PfPs) in each province of the country for monitoring and collecting daily information on the situation of Rights in Burundi.

Currently, PfPs already exist in 11 provinces of the country namely Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura rural, Bubanza, Cankuzo, Cibitoke, Kayanza, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Ngozi and Rumonge.

Since 2014, the ACPDH has been running a TA-Everyone support returnees program for a period of 3 years (2014-2016) aimed at the socio-economic reintegration of people affected by the conflict in two provinces of the country. These are the Bujumbura (Mutimbuzi) and Rumonge (Gahore / Mutambara) Provinces, where approximately 700 families of returnees and IDPs already receive ACPDH support in partnership with DDP / UK, The Baring Foundation and Ockenden International.

Activities under this program include income-generating activities-AGRs, provision of school materials for children, registration of late birth certificates, the fight against Gender-GBVs-

based violence, Advocacy for the protection of the rights of returnees and displaced persons (access to land, health, housing, education, documentation, protection of rights, etc. for effective and sustainable reintegration of affected persons Conflict and other vulnerable people in Burundi.

## **V. Project duration**

As detailed above, this project is scheduled to be implemented for a 36months period (2017-2019).

## **VI. Project budget and funding**

This programme is still unfunded and needs the support from a whole community such local or international partners and donors-The UN Agencies above mentioned mainly UNHCR-Protection Cluster and UNFPA-GBVs sous Cluster are the key partners in mobilising funding opportunities and is in the same way that ACPDH has been identified by UNOCHA to be visited in Cankuzo Province by the Swedish International Development Agency-SIDA mission in Burundi from 23 April to 14 May 2017.

Regarding the Budget of this project, a sample budget is enclosed within the action plan.

**Total amount requested: USD 547057**

## **VII. CONCLUSION.**

In summary, this ACPDH Global Action Plan has not been designed to duplicate initiatives that already existed in this area but by its so-called community approach or simply "the direct involvement and participation of communities in development of programs and responses related to their needs remains a tool for innovation and complementarity in the promotion and protection of human rights in Burundi.

The implementation of this Action Plan therefore concerns, as a whole, members and staff of ACPDH organisation, its financial partners, Donors, the United Nations System Agencies in Burundi, the PTFs, the Local public and private services, public and private institutions, and local communities' themselves.