

KIGEME OUR HOME

LIFE INSIDE
THE CAMP

OUTSIDE
THE CAMP

KIGEME YOUTH

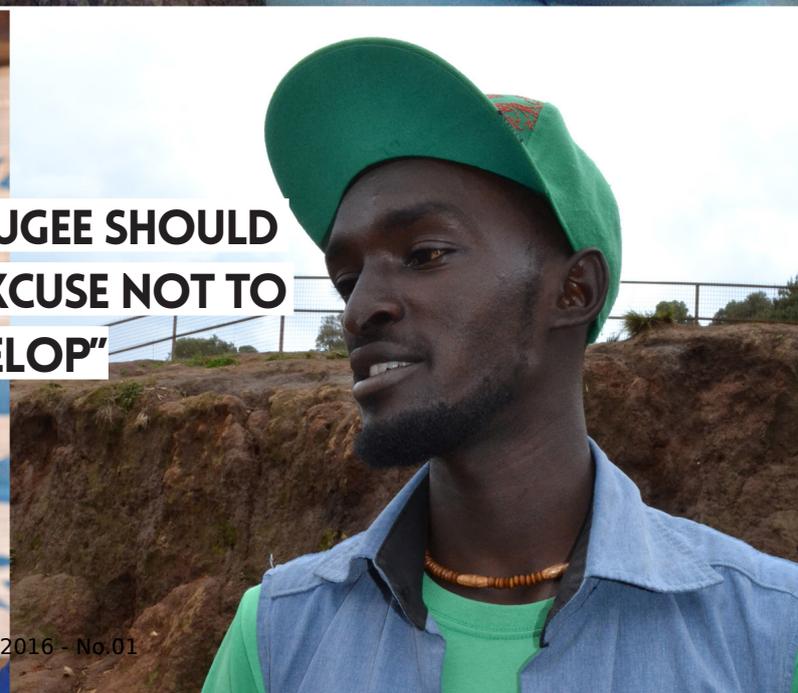
VARIOUS TESTIMONIES



ENTERTAINMENT
IN KIGEME



**"BEING A REFUGEE SHOULD
NOT BE AN EXCUSE NOT TO
DEVELOP"**



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FOREWORD



Peace is one of the characteristics of people who live in harmony because they are marked by love and conviviality. When people live in peace, their peacefully coexistence is not limited to themselves, it is also enjoyed by the neighbours.

Kigeme is one of the refugee camps in Rwanda. It is located in the Southern Province, in Nyamagabe District. It is inhabited by people who were displaced by wars which often devastate the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The refugees who live in the camp have neighbours with whom they participate in different activities. The majority of these people are youth, especially children and teenagers.



After noticing that conflicts are apt to occur from time to time between the two sides, GIZ, a German cooperation organisation operating in Rwanda, through GIZ/Civil Peace Service Refugee Component– a project working with the refugees– funded the training on how mass communication can be used to deal with conflicts.

EJO! Youth Echo–a Rwandan NGO that uses mass communication to promote the culture of peace in the Great Lakes Region–implemented the training.

The main objective of the training was to gather the youth and train them on how to write stories that could contribute to peaceful atmosphere between the refugees in the camp and the population around the camp.

The stories in this magazine were written by the youth living either in the camp or in the neighbourhood. The stories are especially about the life of people who live in the Kigeme Camp as well as those who live near the camp.

The youth benefited from the training thanks to their willingness and commitment. These stories are results of the time spent in the training. The youth in Kigeme Camp and those around it are eager to learn more...

“THE STORIES IN THIS MAGAZINE WERE WRITTEN BY THE YOUTH LIVING EITHER IN THE CAMP OR IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.”



EDITORIAL TEAM



MUKASAFARI ANGÉLIQUE

LIFE AFTER ARRIVING IN THE CAMP

Mukasafari Angélique—who is in charge of social affairs in the Kigeme Camp—told us about their life. She said the camp was established on 10th June 2012 to accommodate the Congolese refugees displaced by the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kigeme Iwacu : What are your duties in the camp?

M. Angélique : One of my tasks is to ensure that the refugees get what is destined for them; for example to ensure that the pupils study well, and so on.

Kigeme Iwacu : How many people are they in this camp?

M. Angélique : This camp theoretically consists of eighteen thousand people (18,000) but there are other new-borns as well.

Kigeme Iwacu : How are the refugees taken care of in their everyday lives in the camp?

M. Angélique : There are different partners of HCR in this camp:

PLAN: in charge of child's rights and preventing any form of violence

PAGER: in charge of availability of water and sanitation

PAM: in charge of food distribution

AHA: in charge of health related to treatment

ADRA: in charge of education of children living in the camp

Kigeme Iwacu : What kind of infrastructure do you share in the camp?

M. Angeliqye : The refugees share different things including:

- Toilets (latrines)
- Bathrooms
- Water taps
- laundering places
- Roads in the quarter
- Etc.

Kigeme Iwacu : When a person encounters a problem, how is it solved?

M. Angeliqye : When a person encounters a problem, there are institutions which can intervene such as:

- The leader in charge of ten households
- Village
- Quarter
- Executive Committee of the camp
- MIDIMAR

Kigeme Iwacu : What conditions do the refugees in the camp live in?

M. Angeliqye : That is still a tough problem for the refugees in the camp and for the donors especially because twelve people may be accommodated by a tent that would normally be suitable for two people only. To solve that problem, the ARC (American Refugee Committee) has started a project of providing more tents to the families, starting from the families composed of between 10 and 15 people.

Kigeme Iwacu : What is life like for the youth in general?

M. Angeliqye : Normally, the youth are busy studying, but there are some who dropped out of school not because they did not want to study but because they did not have means. And there are others who never went to school. But they still have hope that they may one day go to school.

STORY BY: Emmanuel DUSHIMIYIMANA

Appoline NYIRAMUGISHA

Pompidou ISANGE

“BEING A REFUGEE SHOULD NOT BE AN EXCUSE NOT TO DEVELOP.”

Mukarusine Emeritha is 43-married, a mother of five children. This mother is a farmer, but she has no field to cultivate; she cannot even work in the fields of others for money in order develop. Her husband works for ARC (American Refugee Committee).

This family arrived in the camp in 2012, displaced by the war in Masisi in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. After arriving in the camp, life was so hard-bad settlement, adjacent tents, children falling over sheer hillsides because of the bad habitat and the children were not going to school.

Mukarusine was very sad when she said that they were not being given food but were given an amount of Forty Four Thousand One Hundred Rwanda Francs (44100 FRW); amount corresponding to the size of her family. She added that the amount was not sufficient because she has to add the salary of her husband to pay the school fees for her two children, equivalent to One Hundred Twenty Thousand Rwandan Francs

(120,000 FRW). She said it in these words “I have good relationship with my husband. He works for ARC. And he never squanders his money. Instead, he does his best for the family to develop.’

Mukarusine says that even if she is jobless, she has learnt to manage the little she has in order to develop. Here is what she said: “I would have little with good management other than have much without management’

As she was concluding, she said that being a refugee should not prevent her from doing what can lead to development, and she advised the youth who are not going to school to follow vocational trainings because they are popular nowadays. Moreover, Mukarusine thinks that if parents should unceasingly manage well the little they have they would develop.

STORY BY: Etienne SONGA

Edison NTAMBARA

Clemence UMUHOZA

CONTRIBUTION OF KIGEME MARKET TO DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE LIVING NEARBY



When you arrive in Kigeme market, you see buildings with the same design. The houses are built with timbers and roofed with old metal sheets. Uphill of the market, there is a soccer pitch. On the pitch, many children play different games: playing soccer, children using wooden scooters and other children doing gymnastics.

In the market, there are many different people coming and going, people going to sell and people going to buy things from that market downhill of the pitch.

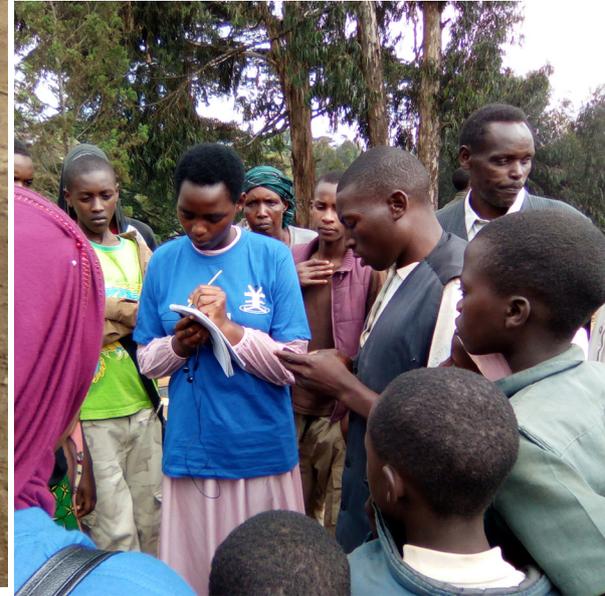
In the market, food and beverages can be found as well as clothes. Apart from the merchandises, in the market you can find other different services such as beauty

salons, restaurants and a cinema where films and football matches are screened especially to the youth.

When we arrived in the market, we found a trader who sells men's clothes who told us: 'The relationship between the people who live in the camp and those outside the camp is outstanding.'

MUHINDO Louis, 50 years old, is married and has children. He talked to us about the clothes business in that market and went on saying that in general clothes business goes well in the Kigeme market, and added: "We get benefits, but that does not mean that there are no losses". For example, the fact that the market is not roofed is an obstacle during rainy seasons the goods get damaged and this causes terrible losses. But this will hopefully end". Muhindo goes on to say: "The market is beneficial to us, very beneficial indeed to us who buy or sell things. For example, I sell things and I get some money for me to live and to solve other problems in normal life".

Next to Muhindo Louis, there is another trader who sells goods to eat. Her name is NYIRABAZUNGU Mariette, born in 1955 who lives in Kibirizi, Nyamagabe District.



Nyirabazungu is a mother of nine children, and she runs an informal business of taking her merchandises from one place to another. She said: “This market is very beneficial for us because we manage to get something to eat, and we can develop”. Nyirabazungu says that the obstacle they encounter is the fact that they do not have particular business premises to sell their products. She said: ‘Due to the rents for the premises, we could not get much profit’.

As we went on, we found a 20-year-old lady in the market who lives at Temata, who sells potatoes on the ground and she also told us that the market is beneficial for her. She said: “When I sell, I manage to afford different things I need without going to prostitution or depending on my parents”.

MUKANDAYISENGA Epiphane advises the youth, saying: “My advice to the youth is to pull their fingers out; not to laze around doing nothing or to wander”.

There is another trader who sells aloe-vera-based dentifrices and soap. His name is John Damascene, 32 years old, living near the Kigeme Camp.

John says he has been selling things in this market for three years now. He says: ‘I am happy about the business with people who live in the camp and those who live near the camp because they buy and like very much my products.’

We didn’t stop there. We also talked with a buyer who told us about the benefits of the market, he said: “It is easy for us to come buying things here because we do not have to get transport”.

NYIRANDATUJE Jeannine, 56 years old, went on to tell us about the obstacles she encounters as a buyer. She said: “For example, as a dweller of Kigeme Camp, I sometimes encounter obstacles. It is impossible for me to take home all the things I buy because of the street children who steal them especially in the evening hours”.

We also talked to another buyer who was buying clothes. She looked happy, and she was trying on the clothes. Her name is MUKANKUNDIYE Jeannette, 38 years old living in Kibirizi. MUKANKUNDIYE said: “I have no words to describe how important the market is for us; whenever we get money we come to buy things from here. We like the prices of the clothes even though we have problems in relation with the styles of the clothes we find here. Apart from that, everything is alright. We like the relationship between the sellers and buyers in the Kigeme market”

As Muhindo and his people say it in their testimony: “The Kigeme market is beneficial for us because we get things to live on and to develop ourselves, and we believe that the obstacles that we encounter will die out progressively”.

**STORY BY: Dieudonné BYAMUNGU
Mupenzi MUYOBOKE
Simbi UTAMURIZA**

AFTER CHANGES IN MENTALITIES, THE RELATIONSHIP IS GOOD.



NIYIBAHO Faraja is 19 years old, studying in G.S Kigeme B. She lives at Gasaka, but she was born in Rwamagana. At the beginning of the conversation she said: “I have friends who live in the camps with whom we made acquaintance at school or in different clubs. There is no problem with them, but at the outset I had problems with the way they pronounce. But now I am used to their pronunciation. I ended up noticing that we are all human beings. Now I have good relationship with them”

Faraja’s mother is MUKANTWARI Jeanette, 60 years old. She is a farmer, and she earns a living by renting the fields of others because she has a small land. When we started the conversation, she said: “People in the camp are good. We share the food. When they came, the women were elegant, and their husbands handsome. And I thought we would not be able to share food and drink. Now we have close bonds with one another. We pay visits to one another. We buy or sell things to one another. But their problem is that they spend all the day doing nothing”.

MUKANTWARI went on telling us about the youth who live in the camp, and she said: “The way I see the youth in the camp, for me they are vagrant, the same with those who live out of the camp. All the children are vagrant nowadays. There are some who smoke cannabis uphill in the woods, but they do not hurt anybody. I advise people who say that they cannot talk with those in the camp to reconsider their mentality because they are feeding divisionism.”

In the camp, we talked with NYIRAKANYANA Dinah who is 32 years old, living in Quarter Number 7. She comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), specifically from Masisi. She said: “I have been in Kigeme Camp for three years now. In those three years, they used to give us corn that I fed my children with. And they were prone to diseases because they lived exclusively on the corn. Later on, I made friends with someone who lives outside of the camp. We got acquainted to each other thanks to the fact that we exchanged goods. That friend would give me peas, and I would give her corn in return. She is a close friend. We can serve as an example when it comes to friendship, especially because there are people who think of people on the other side as bad people, or they think that they cannot interact with them. If a person hates you, you do not show him/her that you know it.”

NZABAKURANA Frederic is 64 years old. He and his wife NYIRANTEZIRYAMANA Seraphine live in Gasaka Sector. At the beginning of the conversation, he said that he never had any problem with those living in the camp. He said: “the children who live in the camp come to our place, they dance for us, they call my wife their aunt; not only the children, but also their mothers visit us.” His wife Seraphine added: “we don’t have any problem with them. We never tell off to one another. The relationship among us is good.” The husband added: “Those living in the camp are our people.” And Seraphine said: “I told them that if they should go back to Congo, I would go with them! I advise those who think badly of them to change their mentality and to live in peace with them.”

YAMBABARIYE Xaverine, 40 years old, lives in the Kigeme Camp, in the Quarter number 7, village number 5. She hails from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the region called Karuba. Xaverina has been in the camp for three years. She said: “I have friends who live out of the camp. They visit me, but I have not visited them to their places especially because we spend most of the time together, either at the market or when they visit me here in the camp. We are acquainted to one another so that I would come back to Rwanda to visit them if we should return to Congo. I would miss them.”

Xaverina, at the end of the conversation says: “Any person deserves to be treated as a human being. I advise those who think that they should not have good relationship with those who live outside of the camp to change their mentality and to stop thinking the way they think especially because they gain nothing from that mentality.”

STORY BY: Olivier SHEMA
Kevine UMUHOZA
Vestine NTIRANDEKURA

“STRONG FC” HELPED THEM TO CHANGE LIFE.

HAGENIMANA Jean Claude (not the real name to keep anonymity) is 20 years old, and is one of those who used to take drugs. He lives outside the camp, in MUNOMBE Village, Kigeme Cell.

We found Jean Claude at a soccer pitch near the school of Kigeme B, and he is one of the players of a team called “Strong F.C.”.

“Strong F.C.” is made up of the youth living in the Kigeme Camp and outside of the camp. The youth in the team used to be part of a group of young people who took drugs and were characterized by vicious habit. They were also known as Ibisamagwe (Panthers).

BAYIRI Justin alias Nigger is 18 years old, living in the Kigeme Camp. He is also a player of “Strong F.C.”. He said: ‘Strong FC’ is a group of young people living in the camp and outside of the camp.’ Nigger said that whenever he was caught stealing before, he was beaten up or jailed.

Hagenimana J. Claude, just as his colleague, told us that he used also to be beaten up and sometimes jailed whenever he was caught stealing. J. Claude went on to say: “when I was still in the bad behaviour of taking drugs, I used to snatch people’s telephones, to steal, in fact doing things that are not good at all!!”

Talking gently, J. Claude emphasized that they would throw themselves into the bad behaviours for them to earn a living especially because many of them found themselves in that kind of life after they had dropped out of school.

He added that in that time they would not see any other way to live but through the drugs which made them forget about their problems.

After experiencing that hard life, both youngsters said that they joined the team of “Strong F.C” for them to be able to stop the bad behaviours.

J. Claude went on to explain in these words: “After deciding to change our life that is when we decided to change starting from the name of our group. After talking with a volunteer who works in the Kigeme Camp, we changed the group into a soccer team, and we were given the name of “Strong F.C.” His colleague Nigger added to what Claude had said: “Ever since I joined “Strong F.C” I can now use my money to buy clothes or shoes whereas I used to buy drugs before.”

At the end of the conversation with the youngsters who are in the team of “Strong F.C”, they advised other youngsters to stop taking drugs because they said they had not known anything good from drugs. They said drugs have bad side effects on their lives and spoil their future; drugs make of people who take them subjects of contempt and can even cause them commit suicide. They added that they should stop taking drugs in order for them to have a happy life.

They said that drugs cause those who take them to be rebellious in their families, and this can cause them to be banished from their own families or from the extended family. They said that they should stop taking the drugs because the drugs lead them nowhere else but to death.

**STORY BY: Libérie NYIRANTEZIRYIMANA
Emmanuel NKURUNZIZA**

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUR NEIGHBOUR IN THE CAMP OR THE ONE OUT OF THE CAMP?

NSHIZIRUNGU PETER, AGE: 15 years old, RESIDENCE: Kigeme, OCCUPATION: Student

The relationship is good between me and those in the camp in all things. We share food, we visit one another and we help one another in all things. When a person gets sick, we visit him/her.

MUTABAZI FELICIEN, AGE: 18, RESIDENCE: Gasaka Sector, OCCUPATION: Student

For me, there is no problem because we play soccer together.

MUGISHA ELISE, AGE: 14, RESIDENCE: Kigeme Camp, OCCUPATION: Student

For me, there is no problem because we explain the courses to one another.

MUGISHA SERGE, AGE: 14

In my understanding, we have oneness because we are like them. I have close friends in them.

DUSABIMANA ROSE, OCCUPATION: Trader, RESIDENCE: Kigeme

There is no problem because we pay visits to one another, we do everything together. When one of us gets something, he/she helps the others; and when I get information of a job opportunity before a neighbour I inform him/her about the job opportunities, and he/she does the same. Moreover, when my child goes fetching fire wood, he gave some to those in the camp for them to be able to cook.

MUGABO ERIC, OCCUPATION: Jobless, RESIDENCE: Kigeme Camp

It is good because we share. When one gets something, he/she will help the neighbour. In one word, there is no problem. Moreover, we exchange ideas.

HAKIZIMANA NDAYAMBAJE, AGE: 26, RESIDENCE: Kigeme Camp, OCCUPATION: Tigo agent

I see no problem about them. We work together all the time, and we help one another at work.

NGENDAHIMANA EMMANUEL, RESIDENCE: KIGEME, OCCUPATION: Trader

As far as I am concerned, I see no problem because there is a good relationship among us. Unless there is a problem in the future, but today we greet one another and we share even the beer.

MUKASAFARI ANGELIQUE, OCCUPATION: In charge of social affairs and education, RESIDENCE: Kigeme Camp

The way I see things as a leader, the relationship is good because we exchange the food, we do community work together and we do different activities in the camp or outside the camp.

NDAYISABA, OCCUPATION: In charge of security, RESIDENCE: Kigeme Camp

As a leader, the way I see things, we have a good relationship with them. If we had financial means, we would buy land in order to inhabit together. We share food, we exchange things. Some people who live in the camp participate in different activities outside the camp, and people who live outside the camp do different activities in the camp. There is no violence against anyone. They are friendly to one another.

ADDRESS NOT GIVEN, RESIDENCE: Kigeme Camp, OCCUPATION: Student

In my view, there is no problem because we interact convivially in games and we share food and ideas.

STORY BY: Javan MUGENZI

Willy MUGISHA

Laurien MUSABYIMANA

SOCCER UNITES THEM.

One of the sources uniting the youth in the camp and outside the camp is soccer.

When you arrive at the soccer pitch located in Kigeme, you see a big number of the youth. The pitch has been built in 1975 by EAR (Anglican Church in Rwanda) and it was named thereafter EAR ever since.

They rarely have fixtures to play in the morning. However, you will always find a number of youngsters gathering there, not playing soccer but sharing ideas especially because the path to and from the market downhill of the pitch goes through the pitch.

The majority of those at the pitch are aged between 11 and 23 years, especially because a number of people between 200 and 400 can play on the pitch every day.



Patrick Muhire is one of the youth who never miss a day without playing on the pitch. He is 18 years old and lives in Kigeme Camp. He said: "I have played on this pitch for three years." Patrick goes on to say: "playing here helps me to avoid wandering and drunkenness, and it helps me refresh the head." He adds: "I have made many friends thanks to my playing on this pitch, whether those living in the camp and those living outside the camp."

While some youth are playing football others are playing balls made of banana leaves, there is much noise from different sources: the noise from the youth themselves, noise from people in the market downhill of the pitch, noise from people in SITE B uphill of the pitch and different vehicles passing near the pitch on the macadamized road linking Nyamagabe with Gasarenda.

Across the pitch, there is an umbrella under which a cobbler mends the boots of the players or shoes of other people from the camp and outside the camp.



Another youngster said: "My name is Hakuzimana, I am 20 years old and live outside the camp." He adds: "I can't be absent from this pitch because here I interact with my fellows." With a smile, he claimed that playing on the pitch makes him feel united to the youth from the same cell, from the camp or outside of the camp.

There is no grass on the pitch. It only has goalposts for the goalkeepers. There are no seats for the supporters. But when there is a match, some people watch standing or sitting uphill around the pitch. Fifi is one the girls who takes a close interest in matches played on that pitch. She says: "I never played soccer but I like it very much." She adds in these words: "the fact that I don't have a brother who plays soccer doesn't stop me from liking soccer very much."



Nshimiyimana Claude is another youngster who doesn't play soccer, but he unceasingly comes watching other youngsters playing. He said: "I have come to feast my eyes and relax." In soccer, there is no ethnicity, no discrimination at all. That is why those who play soccer and their supporters are united by the game.

**STORY BY: Yves MUTABAZI
Enock NDAYISHIMIYE**

Edited by: Chrispin MIZERO



MUKOMBOZI NKUSI PATRICK

“DRAMA”

After creating a group, they transmit messages through drama and their works make a big change in the youth.

“We realized that we can transmit our messages through drama” said Mukombozi Nkusi Patrick, a representative of the group. In September 2015, the group started based on the activities to promote peace through an organisation called ‘Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle’ funded by GIZ.

The group is made up of youngsters aged between 16 and 35. The group has now more than 50 members. “We meet four times a week in SITE B.” Mukombozi explains: “we work on any theme that is related to promote peace.” Drama is scripted and performed to people, with the aim to transmit a message to the audience about any topic. This is done in order to advise people through different messages.

“We mostly faced problems of the youth involved in conflict in a way or another.” Mukombozi explains why they perform plays: “The youth who live in the camp or outside the camp, some of them thought that they had no relationships with one another whereas others could see that they had a relationship.” That is the reason why we found a way to prevent that conflict.

This group is made up of the youth living in the camp and outside the camp. Towards the end of October, they performed three plays; one play in the camp and two plays in two secondary schools of KIGEME A and KIGEME B. “Our objective is to

unite the youth no matter what the origin is in order to have better relationships”. Mukombozi adds: “we think that we are reaching our objective especially because some youth give testimonies that what we do has changed many people.”

“There is no condition for a person to be a member of this group but his/her willingness. Some parents forbid their children from joining us saying that we are not polite or that we do not have culture” Mukombozi talks about the challenges they encounter. “But there are other parents who understand well what we do; and hopefully other parents who don’t understand will finally change their minds.”

Little by little the number of the youth joining the group is increasing, including those in the camp and those living outside the camp. “UNHCR has agreed to support us with equipment.” Mukombozi says: “the clothes or other things we might need when we perform plays.” He concludes: “I encourage the youth to join forces with us no matter what our origin is, because we are all human beings and were all created with humanity.”

**STORY BY: Marie Ange UTUJE
Rafiki MURERAMANZI
IRIBAGIZA**

SINGERS OF PEACE

They share the talent even though the origins are different. Their group transmit messages intended to promote a culture of peace.

Music is one of the youth's favourites because of different styles. That is why artists use music to transmit messages. "We like music, and we are gifted with the talent of singing" said King David, the representative of a group called 'IBIKINGI (The kingdom)."



KING DAVID

Towards the beginning of 2014 this group was created by four youngsters living in KIGEME Camp, in the southern part of Rwanda. "When we created the group, the objective was to show that we are as one - those in the camp or those outside the camp." David explains why the group was created. David adds: "moreover, we thought that our talents would improve if we joined forces in promoting the culture of peace." Stenton, Kay J, Real Man and the representative King David are the founders of the group. They have already started writing songs intended to transmit message on peace and prevention of conflicts.

On this specific matter, David went on to say: "in general, we write songs based on what we see in our society."



TIZOWA TEMBA

Towards the end of 2014, the youngsters found that all the members of the group "IBIKINGI" were from the camp, and they thought to themselves that it would be a good thing if they included two artists from outside the camp in order to transmit their messages without borders. David confirmed it in these words: "we chose Tizo wa Temba and D.O.G because we were singing the same style of Hip Hop and sharing the same objective."

Hip-hop is a type of music from the United States of America. And it is said to have been started by black people in the times of slavery. The singers of this style give constructive messages, and they called it "Rap".

Up to now, the group "IBIKINGI (The kingdom)" have two (2) songs. David says: "Our first song is entitled Amahoro (Peace)." However, even though they have talent for singing, it is a big problem for them to have their songs recorded in studios. "We can't afford to go to studio. As a result our messages are kept in our heads or on papers only." David explains. He adds: "Normally, when a song is recorded in a studio, it is like echo because it reaches many people. In that way, the message is transmitted."

"Don't lose hope because everything is possible... don't opt to commit suicide or take drugs... My friend, have hope. And life goes on." These are some of the words making up their song entitled "NTUKIHEBE" (Don't lose hope)'

Tizo wa Temba who has joined the group said: "Our objective is to unite our brothers from Congo with the Rwandans living in Kigeme and we become one"

These youngsters want to have their music played in Rwanda and in the Great Lakes Region where they come from. "We ask for support from anyone who finds that what we do is important to our people." David talks about the needs of the group he represents. "We need means so that we can have our music recorded in studio for our message to reach our intended audience."

"It is not easy. But when you do something you like in favour of your own people, you have to make great sacrifices" David, the representative of 'IBIKINGI' concludes saying: " If anyone has talent, he/she should show it not intended as an enjoyment, but using it as a weapon to build peace."

**STORY BY: Alphonse SHUKURU
Emmanuel MBYAYINGABO**

EDITED BY: Chrispin MIZERO



KIGEME

OUR HOME

