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ICGLR Regional Peace Education Programme - Kick Off Workshops

From 22nd October to 24th November 2020, the ICGLR Peace & Security Department in cooperation with GIZ organised a series of Kick Off Workshops to launch the **Development of a Regional Peace Education Programme for the Great Lakes Region**. The project is part of the part of the “GIZ programme – Support to the ICGLR” funded by the BMZ and the European Union, in support to the ICGLR regional peace and security program actions plan and expected to run from May to April 2022 to engage a range of actors from all levels of society to contribute to the Regional Peace Education Programme.

The project’s objective is to jointly develop and support the implementation of a **Regional Peace Education Programme** for the African Great Lakes Region. Its first phase from October 2020 to May 2021 focused on gathering and drawing from existing material on formal and non-formal peace education in the four pilot countries (Burundi, D.R.Congo, Rwanda and Uganda) and developing a joint, regional approach to peace education in the Great Lakes Region. The Programme will be published and made available by ICGLR to all interested users. The second phase of the project will run from June 2021 to March 2022 to support the implementation of the previously developed programme by training peace education experts from the four pilot countries and strengthening the cooperation between peace education actors in the Great Lakes Region.

The project is implemented by a consortium of GFA Consulting Group, Aegis Trust and VIAMO, coordinated by a team of national peace education experts from each of the four pilot countries, a regional and an international coordinator. Each national expert ensures close cooperation to the relevant government and non-government stakeholders in their country. This will enable the project to feed expertise from local actors to the national and the regional level and vice versa, so that the Programme is designed to meet existing concerns and needs for Peace Education at the regional, national and local levels.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, it was soon decided that a large regional workshop could not be held in presence. In order to ensure access to a greater group of actors and to include as many perspectives as possible, the Project Team carried out presence workshops on the national levels, with Uganda and DRC hosting even two workshops – one in the capital, one in one of the provinces most affected by conflict.

On 24 November 2020, the Kick Off Workshop series concluded with a virtual event, bringing together high-level representatives from the four pilot countries from foreign and education ministries, education boards, international and national NGOs. All in all, about 100 Peace Education experts, practitioners and decision-makers participated in the Kick off Workshop series.

In all six workshops, participants showed great appreciation for the initiative and underlined the need to enhance peace education in the Great Lakes Region. Many participants raised the need for more cooperation and coordination of efforts and activities in the field, both on the national and on the regional level. Regarding the various existing Peace Education initiatives, a sharing of expertise and good practices was suggested to facilitate mutual learning. The Peace Education Programme needs to tackle the general lack of expertise on the subject and to strengthen capacity building on Peace Education.

The participatory approach for this virtual event allowed participants to connect across national divides and work together in teams on common topics and aspects of the Peace Education Programme. The outcomes of this workshop series will help to shape the Regional Peace Education Programme with input



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from diverse actors from all four pilot countries as well as the regional perspective. His excellency, Ambassador Kakese from the Democratic Republic of Congo, concluded at the end of the virtual workshop, that this event had very positively contributed to bringing relevant actors in the region together and to jointly develop a regional approach to Peace Education. His wish was that all actors engage and continue to “contaminate the Great Lakes Region with peace”.

For more information about ICGLR’s Regional Peace Education Project, please contact the Peace Education Project Team:

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Photos from National Kick Off Workshops



National Kick Off Workshop in Bukavu



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National Kick Off Workshop in Kinshasa

DES opening the ceremony for Burundi National Kick Off Workshop





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Working in small groups at Kick Off Workshop Uganda



Rwanda Kick Off Workshop