

Why the celebration of 16 days of activism against VBG in Burundi?

In Burundi, most agricultural production is devoted to women. Burundi remains a patriarchal society where gender-based violence became tragically common during the civil war. In fact, the place of women/girls in Burundian society remains subordinate to that of men. In 2012, women/girls accounted for 80% of the agricultural labor force and accounted for 84% of food production. However, this predominance of women/girls in the agricultural sector is associated with significant precariousness, with only 17.7% of women/girls accessing women in rural areas, compared to 62% of men. The development of socio-economic sectors would therefore necessarily involve women, but women are very absent in areas such as "industry, ICT, construction, transport, cross-border trade, etc." They are more numerous in the agricultural sector, more specifically food agriculture and small trade.

It is true that Burundi has made progress in recent days in terms of the representation of women in decision-making institutions such as "Parliament", the rate of female representation has increased from 23% in 2015 to 36% in 2020 before co-optation¹. Unfortunately, basic rural communities, particular women still seem ignored as they are 80% illiterate and more involved in subsistence agriculture with a very low income turning under a (1) dollar (\$) per day while men are in trade and key institutions of the nation.

What is COB's vision for these 16 days of activism against VBG?

Community Outreach Burundi (COB) intends to join other national and international NGOs and OSCs in the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (GBVs) but with a particular focus on drug abuse prevention and children's rights.

Our intervention will be based on awareness against GBV related to drug abuse for women/girls, and other vulnerable groups in Burundian society. It will be an opportunity to influence government officials to implement a gender perspective in the development of national laws and policies on drug prevention, equality, equity and children's rights without discrimination.

Target region, beneficiaries and activities

Our target areas are 5 fundamental and post-fundamental schools (with a total of 4,000 students) from North of Bujumbura city, Ntahangwa commune, Kinama and Kamenge zones, which will meet in a campaign of awareness, debates and recreational activities such as: "football match- basketball and women's volleyball, songs, skits, folklore-dances, etc.).

In these activities, the following social strata will be invited: "women leaders of local CSOs, local authorities, National Police officers of the Anti-drug Department and parents." They will take part in the open debates on the subject. Flyers will be designed and distributed for broad dissemination of the message.

¹<https://www.bing.com/search?q=repr%C3%A9sentation+des+femmes+dans+les+instances+de+prise+de+d%C3%A9cision+au+Burundi+2020&q=n&form=QBRE&sp=-1>

Why the choice of the project region?

The choice of this locality is guided by its socio-economic situation: (i) youth drug abuse and trafficking; (ii) early marriage, (iii) early pregnancy and (iv) increased school dropout for girls: 130 girls who abandoned school from July 2019 until September 2020 (32 for abandonment due to family poverty, 25 without apparent reason, 40 early married and 33 unwanted pregnancies). It is a repetitive situation every time after rice harvest.

It is for this reason that our intervention intends to involve and inform young girls about Drug abuse-gendered violence and their negative impact on the educational and socio-economic life of the family, school, church and the country in general.

Expected results and sustainability of the intervention

The awareness will involve 4,000 direct benefits, more than 9,000 indirect beneficiaries through the distribution of leaflets on prevention to the Drug abuse –gendered violence on women and children's rights. A radio broadcast on the local station will also be animated. Matches and other activities will be played/presented to attract the public.

Talented girls who have presented their activities related to the theme in order to contribute to the strengthening of equality and equity and the prevention of Drug abuse-gendered violence will of course be encouraged. The best will be selected as ambassadors of their schools to remain involved in disseminating the message.

Among the songs presented, one of them will be selected and sent to the recording studio for sustainability of the dissemination of the message on the various radio stations based in Burundi.

A platform for all participating schools will also be created. It will connect the leading students of these schools who will each time have to come together and organize recreational activities with a specific message on drug abuse prevention, equality, equity and the rights of the child in general.

Proposed Total Budget : 800 USD

Contribution of COB : 100 US

Requested Budget Support : 700 USD

Contact person : Country Director

SIBONIYO Elias

TEL : (+257) 69456585

Skype : @Esiboniyo

Email : eliassiboniyo50@gmail.com / communityoutreach7@gmail.com

ROHERO II Boulevard de l'Indépendance, Gift center Building N° 3

BUJUMBURA – Burundi