



# GREAT LAKES PEACEBUILDING INSTITUTE

**Theme :**  
**UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO AFRICA AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES :  
 CONCEPT AND STRATEGIES OF CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION  
 AND PEACEBUILDING**

**From October 07 to november 01, 2024 at MIPAREC ( MUGATUTU )  
 Conference center , GITEGA - BURUNDI**







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## I. MESSAGE FROM GLPI MANAGEMENT

The Great Lakes Peacebuilding Institute is the flagship program of the Great Lakes Peacebuilding Initiative (GLPI). The Institute was founded in 2004 with the mission of "bringing peacebuilders together" by strengthening their capacities, sharing, and exchanging their experiences through theoretical and practical courses, with the aim of building a supportive and active network of change agents, first in the Great Lakes region of Africa, an area historically marked by conflict and inter-communal tensions, and subsequently throughout the rest of the African continent. This report aims to provide a detailed overview of the Institute's activities during the year 2024, highlighting achievements, challenges encountered, and lessons learned.

The Great Lakes region, which includes countries such as Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda, faces complex dynamics that require tailored and sensitive interventions. In this context, GLPI organized, in October 2024, various training modules aimed at strengthening local and regional capacities for conflict transformation, promoting a culture of dialogue, and organizational and community development.

This report is structured to provide an overview of the Peacebuilding Institute's work, analyze its impact on beneficiary communities, and reflect on best practices and lessons learned that emerge from this process.

Through this report, our aim is to enlighten not only our colleagues and partners, but also decision-makers and civil society actors about the importance of peacebuilding in this vulnerable region through capacity building and networking among practitioners.

We therefore take this opportunity to thank:

All the founding member organizations of GLPI, including MCC, MI-PAREC, COPARE, and Friends Peace House; the administrative authorities of Burundi; the staff of MCC Burundi; various organizations that sent us participants, facilitators, special speakers, and translators who successfully facilitated the training; the participants at the Institute, the team of volunteers, and the staff of GLPI; the members of the Regional Network of Alumni (RCAP-RGL); to name just a few. It is thanks to you that our dream has become a reality.

We thank you for your continued interest and support for the efforts towards the Great Lakes Peacebuilding Institute.

Dieudonné KIBINAKANWA

Director



# 2024 GREAT LAKES PEACEBUILDING INSTITUTE



**Ms. Melody Musser**



**Ms. Christine Sumog-oy**



**Ms. Lyse MARINAT NIKOYAGIZE**



**KIBINAKANWA Dieudonné**

**Current Regional Director**

## II. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE GLPI INSTITUTE

### A. HISTORY

Originally known as GLPS (Great Lakes Peacebuilding Seminar), GLPI is a bilingual ( english and french ) training program for peacebuilders in the Great Lakes sub-region. It was initiated in 2004 by four organizations (MIPAREC, FPH, COPARE, and MCC) as an institution offering high-quality seminars and training for peacebuilding in the region. The longest training lasts four weeks and is known as **the October Institute**.

In 2013, representatives of the initiating organizations, meeting at their Ordinary General Assembly, decided to change the name GLPS to "Great Lakes Peacebuilding Institute," abbreviated to GLPI, and redefined its vision, mission, and objectives. Since then, the Coordination of GLPI was entrusted to MCC volunteers named Ms. Melody Musser who headed this institution from 2013 to May 2017 and to Ms. Christine Sumog-oy from 2017 to 2020. Both were assisted by Ms. Lyse Marinat NIKOYAGIZE.

Since 2015, to address identified needs in the field of peacebuilding, particularly the relationship between peace and development, GLPI has organized specific short-term modular training sessions and, since 2018, has introduced modules on development. At the same time, its doors have been opened to other participants from other African countries and elsewhere.

In June 2020, GLPI was registered, by ministerial decision, in Burundi under the name "Great Lakes Peacebuilding Initiative," and since then, the Peacebuilding Institute has become one of the organization's main programs, which now has an annual plan and other initiatives.

Among many other initiatives, GLPI supports structures called "Chapters," which are groups of graduates from the same city who have completed training courses organized by GLPS/GLPI on peacebuilding and community development since 2004.

Currently, chapters exist in the cities of Gitega and Bujumbura in Burundi, Kigali in Rwanda, Goma, Bukavu and Uvira in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Together, these Chapters constitute a regional network called the Réseau de Concertation des Artisans de Paix dans la Région des Grands Lacs (RCAP-RGL), which is a peace infrastructure consisting of a dynamic regional network of interdependent systems, resources, values and skills held by GLPI Alumni, state institutions, civil society and community institutions that promote dialogue and consultation, prevent conflicts and enable peaceful mediation when violence occurs.



## B. IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF GLPI

The Great Lakes Peacebuilding Institute has received contributions from several influential figures who have played a vital role in promoting peace and reconciliation in the Great Lakes region. Here are some notable figures who have contributed their expertise and commitment:



- **Dr. Jimmy Juma Mulanda, current MCC Representative in Rwanda and Burundi**, is a recognized activist and leader in the field of peace and development, particularly active in the Great Lakes region, especially in East Africa. Mulanda has played an active role in guiding, developing the approaches, modules and curriculum used within GLPI. He has been the trainer for several years within GLPI. Mulanda has collaborated with various non-governmental organizations to mobilize participants and trainers. His commitment to peace, development and strengthening of GLPI makes him a respected figure within this organization.



- **Briget Butt** who worked for MCC in Rwanda and Burundi for over a decade starting in 1994: Briget Butt's impact on the Great Lakes Peacebuilding Institute lies in her ability to bring together people from different backgrounds, strengthen the organization's leadership skills, and promote a culture of lasting peace in a region often marked by conflict. She also contributed to the development of GLPI's training program and was a facilitator for several years. Her main focus was on strengthening the capacity of the organization's leaders, equipping them with the skills needed to promote peace and justice in the Great Lakes Region.

- **The members of the GLPI General Assembly** play a crucial role from its conception and in the organization's consolidation by fulfilling the following functions:

- \* Structuring and developing the organization's policies
- \* Outlining the organization's major strategic directions
- \* Promoting cooperation and collaboration with various stakeholders
- \* Monitoring and evaluating the organization.



## III. Objectives of the INSTITUTE:

- ⇒ International participants benefit from comprehensive, high-quality training in peacebuilding and development through theory-based learning and practical experience in the elements of conflict transformation and development.
- ⇒ Participants acquire analytical and application skills as well as comprehensive non-violent methods of conflict transformation.
- ⇒ Participants reflect on their own roles and behaviors and will be made aware of working in and on conflicts in their own localities.

## THEME OF THE OCTOBER 2024 INSTITUTE:

*Understanding and Responding to African and Global Challenges: Concept and Strategies for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding*

## MODULES, CALENDAR AND FACILITATORS

Semaine	Cours sur la Consolidation de la paix	Facilitateur	Cours sur le développement communautaire et organisationnel	Facilitateur
1 7– 11 Oct	Peace and Conflict Theory: Understanding African and Global Challenges.	ISSA SADI EBOMBOLO	Project development, mobilization and fund-raising.	Cyprien Nkoma
2 14-18 Oct	Concept and strategies of peacebuilding and conflict transformation	ISSA SADI EBOMBORO	Design and implementation of an effective monitoring and evaluation plan	Jean Berchimans NTAMAHANGARIZO
3 21-25 Oct	TraumaHealing and Reconciliation	Alexis NIMUBONA	Conflict Sensitivity and the Do No Harm Approach	WILLIAM Kiptoo
4 28 Oct- 01 Nov	DISASTERS MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONFLICT	Karoline Caesar	Organisational and Community Leadership	JACOB Yoder DRC MCC representative

## OVERVIEW OF PARTICIPANTS, FACILITATORS and PARTNERS

### ⇒ COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF PARTICIPANTS:



Burkina Faso



Burundi



Rwanda



Kenya



RDC



Chad

⇒

### ⇒ Countries of origin of Experts & facilitators



Burkina Faso



Burundi



Kenya



RDC



Germany



USA



Zambia

### Countries of origin of the Translators



Cameroun



Burundi

### PARTNERS WHO SENT PARTICIPANTS:



United Nations High  
Commissioner  
for refugees Burundi



Peace Direct



Fondation Chirezi



Rwanda, Burundi, DRC  
Tchad, Burkina Faso



FPH / Rwanda



WFD/MIPAREC Burundi

### Number of participants by country:

Burundi ( ); Rwanda (6); RDC ( ); Tchad (3); Burkinafaso (1); Kenya (1);

### Male/Female Ratio:

Niveaux d' études: Des humanités générales, licences et maitrise



## IV. OUR GLPI TRAINING METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The training approach and methodology at the Great Lakes Peacebuilding Institute (GLPI) generally focuses on building the capacity of individuals and communities active in peacebuilding and development in the Great Lakes region of Africa and beyond. Key elements that characterize our training approach include:

### A. Participatory Methodology:

- ⇒ **Active Learning:** GLPI uses participatory learning methods, such as group work, case studies, and simulations, to encourage participant engagement.
- ⇒ **Exchange of experiences:** GLPI encourages the sharing of experiences between participants to enrich the learning process.
- ⇒ **Integration activities:** GLPI begins its training with icebreaker activities to allow participants to get to know each other on a personal level and build relationships of trust.
- ⇒ **Personal Sharing:** GLPI encourages the sharing of personal stories or experiences to establish an emotional connection between team members.
- ⇒ **Problem solving:** GLPI uses puzzles or brain teasers that require collective thinking.





## B. Theoretical and Practical Expertise

- ⇒ **Experienced trainers:** GLPI mobilizes international experts with practical experience in conflict management, peace promotion and development.
- ⇒ **Links between theory and practice:** The training courses combine theory and practical case studies so that participants can immediately apply what they have learned.
- ⇒ **Continuous adaptation and varied themes:** GLPI uses the results of previous evaluations to vary the themes and to adapt the training programs and constantly respond to the changing needs of the communities.
- ⇒ **Bilingual Institute:** At GLPI, courses are taught in French and English. A simultaneous translation is provided by specialized translators.



JACOB YODER ( USA )



WILLIAM KIPTOO (KENYA)



ISSA SADI EBOMBOLO (ZAMBIA)



Karoline Caesar (Allemagne)



Dr Silas SAYUMWE (BURUNDI)



Jean Berchimans  
NTAMAHANGARIZO (Burundi)



Alexis NIMUBONA (BURUNDI)



Mr NKOMA KAMENGWA  
Cyprien Burkina Faso)

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- **Support to Personal Development**
  - **Coaching and mentorship** : GLPI offers mentoring opportunities to support participants in their personal and professional development.
  - **Personal Strategic Planning**: GLPI encourages participants to develop action plans to apply the skills learned in their own contexts.
- ⇒ **Understanding Local Contexts**: GLPI helps its participants to familiarize themselves with the tools for analyzing the causes and dynamics of conflicts in their localities in order to be able to approach them in an informed manner and according to the rules of the art.
- ⇒ **Periodic evaluations**: GLPI analyzes the effectiveness of training through pre- and post-training evaluations to measure the impact on participants and their communities.
- ⇒ **Participant Networking**: GLPI facilitates networking among participants so they can share resources, ideas, and future collaborations.



TRANSLATORS TEAM:





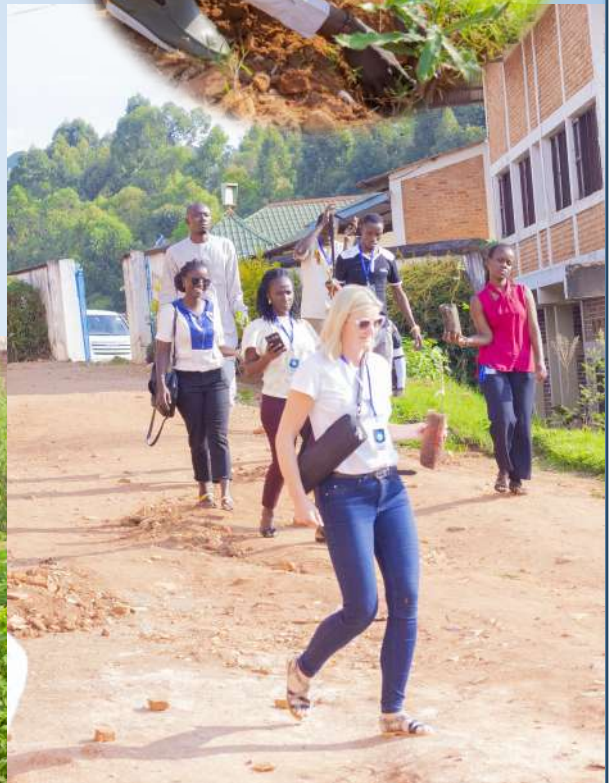
## C. Organization of Team Building activities

Team building is essential to create a high-performing and harmonious team.

⇒ Hiking and outdoor activities: During its training, GLPI promotes team spirit through physical challenges such as sports and tree planting. This year, classes planted trees at the Stadium Primary School.

⇒ This activity aims at:

- **Practical Education:** This activity allows participants to learn tree planting and maintenance practices, thus promoting an active approach to environmental preservation.



- **Symbolism:** Planting a tree can symbolize a commitment to sustainability and environmental protection, showing that individual actions can have a positive impact.

- **Strengthening the idea of community work:** It is also a way to bring participants together around a common project, promoting collaboration and the sharing of ideas on how to protect the planet.

- **Problem-solving workshops:** Use puzzles or riddles that require group thinking.

- **Volunteer activities:** Working together on a community project to strengthen solidarity and a sense of commitment.



## D. Organization of field trips during training

Generally, a field trip enriches learning and helps establish links between theory and practice, which is crucial for the success of peace and development initiatives. During the Institute, GLPI organizes field trips for several reasons. GLPI wants its participants to have:

### 1. Good contextual understanding

- **Direct observations:** Being on the ground allows us to see local realities, observe social and economic dynamics, and analyze how peace and development interact in a specific context.
- **Listening to local actors:** This allows us to meet with stakeholders (communities, NGOs, local governments) and listen to their perspectives and needs.

### 2. Participatory approach

- **Inclusion of beneficiaries:** Involving stakeholders in the training process strengthens the sense of belonging and commitment. Participant feedback helps design together appropriate solutions.
- **Training feedback:** On-site interactions allow for real-time testing of ideas and methods, gathering feedback on their relevance and effectiveness.
- 3. Adaptation of strategies
- **Observation of challenges:** Trainers can identify specific challenges that participants might not have addressed during formal training.
- **Adjustment of approaches:** The observed context may require adjustments in training methods or development programs to better correspond to local realities.





## 4. capacity building

- **Practical learning:** Participants acquire concrete skills that are directly applicable in their environment, strengthening their ability to promote peace and development
- **Exchange of best practices:** The field trip encourages the sharing of experiences between participants and communities, thus enriching collective learning.

## 5. awareness and impact

- **Visibility of issues:** This also helps raise participants' awareness of the complex realities related to peace and development, making their learning more meaningful.
- **Measurable impact:** Observing changes on the ground makes it easier to assess the impact of peace and development initiatives.





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## E. Organization of tourist and leisure visits:

- During its training sessions, and especially on weekends, GLPI organizes sightseeing and recreational tours. These play several important roles, including:
- **Emotional balance:** Peace training can address sensitive and sometimes weighty topics. Incorporating recreational activities can help participants decompress, manage stress, and maintain emotional balance.
- **Strengthening relationships:** Sightseeing tours and group activities foster teamwork and strengthen relationships among participants. This can create a sense of camaraderie, facilitating discussion and learning.
- **Cultural understanding:** Exploring tourist sites allows participants to better understand the cultural and historical context of the region. This can enrich discussions on peace by providing concrete examples of the challenges involved.
- **Inspiration:** Recreational activities and discoveries can stimulate creativity and inspiration, offering new perspectives on issues of peace and conflict resolution.
- **Wellness practice:** Promoting a balanced lifestyle, including time for leisure and relaxation, is essential for overall well-being and can contribute to greater focus and effectiveness during training sessions.

By incorporating these elements, peace training becomes not only more enriching but also more enjoyable and engaging.





## Celebrating Diversity:

By organizing these activities,

GLPI aims to:

**Highlight the different cultures,** values, and traditions of team members through activities that foster understanding and empathy. This fosters camaraderie among participants, thereby strengthening collaboration.

**Intercultural Exchange:** By celebrating diversity, participants are exposed to different perspectives and ways of thinking, encouraging greater understanding and creativity.

**Preparing for a Globalized World:** Training in an international context exposes participants to diverse cultures, developing their intercultural communication skills, which are essential in a global work environment.

**Talent Recognition:** Each participant has unique skills to offer. Celebrating these contributions values each person's potential while strengthening self-confidence.

**Solidarity:** Shared celebrations help build lasting relationships between participants, who can support each other even after the training ends. This creates a positive dynamic that enriches the learning experience, making the training not only educational but also memorable and rewarding.





## OVERVIEW OF COURSES AWARDED AT THE INSTITUTE FROM OCTOBER 2024



### **Peace and Conflict Theory: Understanding African and Global Challenges.**

This module is designed as a general introduction to the field of peace and conflict studies and to understanding Africa and global challenges. The course consists of two sections: The first section provides explanations of different sets of peace and conflict theories. This section identifies the underlying causes and sources of conflict in human beings, as well as conflict in the way humans interact with each other in society or in the conditions of the social structure. The second section presents the origins and nature of conflict in Africa, multicultural perspectives on conflict, and how emerging patterns and trends in conflict in Africa form

the basis for reflection.

In addition, this section provides an understanding of recent African history, which has had a significant impact on the breakdown of African institutions and, consequently, on the incidence and intensity of conflict on the continent and globally. The purpose of this section is to demonstrate that what is happening in the current economic, political and social life in Africa in general and in the Great Lakes region in particular has much to do with the advent of three traumatic events (slavery, colonization and the modernization process). The three traumatic episodes will provide an in-depth insight into the current global and African situation using the ABC (attitude, behavior and context) triangular tool of conflict analysis.





## Project design, mobilization and fundraising



Mr NKOMA KAMENGWA  
Cyprien Burkina Faso)

1. The "Project Development, Fundraising, and Mobilization" course covers the essential steps for designing successful projects and securing the necessary funding.

2. This course module provides an introduction to the various concepts and skills needed to effectively design, implement, and manage peacebuilding and development projects, leading to organizational success and positive, sustainable change. Participants explored the project design process, from initiation, conceptualization, and planning to development, implementation, and monitoring. Participants also learned about theories of change, logical frameworks, success indicators, and

project design using the integrated peacebuilding framework. The main objective of this module is to enable participants to develop effective approaches and improve their skills in designing, implementing, and managing projects within their own organizations or communities.

By the end of the week, participants were able to:

1. Identify ways to implement high-quality project processes for their own organization or community
2. Develop a theory of change, a logical framework, and success indicators
3. Equip themselves with the skills and competencies necessary for effective organizational leadership and management.







## Concept and strategies of peacebuilding and conflict transformation

This course provides an overview of the key concepts, strategies, and challenges shaping work in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. The module introduces participants to the various concepts, tools, approaches, and types of peacebuilding and conflict transformation interventions. It defines the importance of peacebuilding and conflict transformation through concrete examples that demonstrate the complex nature of this field. These concrete examples motivate and require participants to reflect on their prior knowledge. The course is designed to encourage participants to explore the concepts, tools, and approaches learned in this course and to discuss how their work integrates

with them to contribute to their peacebuilding and conflict transformation efforts. It offers a case study that encourages participants to deepen their analysis and continue to reflect on how they might integrate peacebuilding and conflict transformation objectives into their own work or in other conflicts. Finally, this course provides participants with a safe space for self-reflection and test retention at the end of the course.

### Course Goals and Objectives

1. To provide participants with an understanding of the concepts, tools, approaches, and strategies of conflict transformation and peacebuilding using concrete examples.
2. To help participants identify conceptual approaches and strategies relevant to their context and integrate them into efforts to build peace and transform conflicts affecting their regions of origin.





## Conflict Sensitivity and the Do No Harm Approach



**WILLIAM KIPTOO (KENYA)**

The course on "Conflict Sensitivity and the Do No Harm Approach" deals with ways to analyze and manage conflicts in a way that minimizes harm and promotes peace. This course is designed to equip participants with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to analyze, develop, and apply strategies to address the complexities of assistance, development, and peacebuilding with better results for the societies where assistance is provided. Participants were introduced to analytical frameworks for reducing complexity and managing uncertainty; conflict-sensitive approaches; and strategies for integrating these approaches into their programming. The main objective of this module is to introduce participants to the ideas, concepts, and approaches of conflict sensitivity and Do No Harm in order to improve and strengthen their values and principles for understanding, implementing, and monitoring conflict-sensitive programs. The course emphasizes the need to adopt a proactive and thoughtful approach in developing interventions to avoid exacerbating conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence. He calls for the importance of collaboration and ethical responsibility in conflict management.

## Design and implementation of an effective monitoring and evaluation plan



**Jean Berchimans  
NTAMAHANGARIZO**

The course on "Designing and Implementing an Effective Monitoring and Evaluation Plan" covers the principles and practices needed to establish a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system that ensures project quality and impact.

This course module enables participants to plan, design, and implement effective monitoring and evaluation strategies for their respective organizations.

Participants learned about various monitoring and evaluation objectives, mechanisms, and frameworks, including the development of baselines and indicators and the implementation of learning methods to improve the quality and impact of their work. Participants also explored best practices and lessons

learned from the monitoring and evaluation experiences of various peacebuilding and development programs in different contexts.

The course emphasizes the importance of careful design and rigorous implementation of a monitoring and evaluation plan to improve project effectiveness, promote transparency, and strengthen accountability to stakeholders.

## 1. Understanding Trauma and Reconciliation



This course aims to provide participants with a thorough understanding of trauma, its effects, and strategies for reconciliation and healing, thus enabling an environment conducive to individual and community recovery. The course explores the understanding of trauma, the types of trauma, whether individual (personal experiences) or collective (wars, genocides); the impact of trauma on individuals, groups or communities, healing processes (recognition of trauma, expression of emotions and therapeutic approaches). The course also explores reconciliation, the importance of forgiveness, the restoration of trust as well as the construction of collective memory. Participants learn about different resources and support, whether psychological support or community resources.

Finally, participants understand how to prevent trauma through education and awareness and through mental health promotion.





## DISASTERS MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES



- The course on "Disaster Management and Conflict related to Environment and Natural Resources " explores how environmental disasters and natural resource management can amplify tensions and provoke conflicts, while examining management strategies to mitigate these risks. The course was structured as follows:

### 1. Introduction to Environmental Disasters

- **Types of Disasters:** Floods, droughts, earthquakes, and their socioeconomic impact.
- **Climate Change:** Influence on the Frequency and Intensity of Disasters.

### 2. Relationships Between Environment and Conflict

- **Natural Resources:** The importance of resources such as water, oil, and agricultural land in triggering conflicts.
- **Competition for Resources:** Case studies of crisis-affected regions where scarce resources have exacerbated tensions.

## Organizational and community leadership



The "Organizational and Community Leadership" course explores the styles, skills, and practices necessary for effective leadership within organizations and communities.

The goal of this course was to raise awareness of how leadership skills can be implemented in families, organizations, and communities. Participants learned that leadership is not based solely on position, as dictated by the structure or hierarchy of the organization or community; but rather on the principle that leadership inspires and empowers others, regardless of one's position in the organization or community.

The course emphasizes the importance of inclusive, ethical, and adaptive leadership to inspire meaningful change at both the organizational and community levels. The continued development of leadership skills is essential to meet current and future challenges.

## OTHER IMPORTANT LEARNING MOMENTS DURING THE INSTITUTE

### ⇒ MORNING DEVOTION

Morning devotion is a spiritual practice of great importance to GLPI participants. It allows them to begin the day by focusing on spiritual values, thus promoting a positive state of mind. This time is conducive to reflection, meditation, and prayer, allowing them to better understand themselves and clarify their thoughts and intentions for the day. Taking time to center themselves in the morning helps reduce anxiety and stress, providing a space of inner peace before facing daily challenges. Morning devotion is therefore a valuable time to cultivate an attitude of gratitude, peace, and clarity, thus laying a solid foundation for the rest of the day.



### ⇒ SUNDAY CHURCH VISITS

Visiting churches offers GLPI participants a multitude of benefits and reasons, whether spiritual, cultural, or personal:

- \* Visiting churches provides an opportunity for GLPI participants to meet people with similar interests, connect with a local community, or participate in events.
- \* Churches are centers of learning where profound questions about faith, morality, and existence are explored.
- \* Churches provide a peaceful environment conducive to personal reflection, meditation, or simply a quiet moment away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.
- \* Participating in masses or rituals gives GLPI participants a sense of serenity and rhythm in life, especially for those spending four weeks at the Institute.



## COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENTS, AND COMMUNITY ACTORS

To ensure the success of the October 2024 Institute, several stakeholders played key roles. Here is an overview of the main stakeholders and their roles:

- 1. The Government of Burundi:** This government provides GLPI with the legal, political, and security framework. It also facilitates entry and exit for participants and facilitators. The physical presence of GITEGA provincial authorities reassures participants of the legality and support of the Burundian government.
- 2. The founding members:** They played a key role in securing funding, whether through donors, grants, partnerships, or participant mobilization. We sincerely thank our member organizations, namely MIPAREC, FPH, COPARE, and MCC.
- 3. Experts and Facilitators:** Trainers and experts in conflict resolution and development have contributed their knowledge and skills to enrich the training content.
- 4. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** By sending participants to the Institute, NGOs not only enable resource mobilization, but also provide GLPI with practical expertise and an understanding of local dynamics.
- 5. Students or Participants:** Participants to the training, whether students or professionals, are essential because they constitute the target audience. Their feedback can be used to evaluate and improve programs.
- 6. Local Communities:** GLPI prioritizes visits to local communities because they provide crucial perspectives, often overlooked in peacebuilding. Their involvement ensures that training meets the specific needs of the populations concerned.

**Financial Partner:** We sincerely thank MCC Rwanda & Burundi for providing essential funding for the smooth running of the Institute.

**Our service providers:** mainly the MUGATUTU Center (PAREC Center), IWACU Center, Ingoma Printing have contributed enormously to the success of the Institute by providing the facilities and equipment necessary for the smooth running of the training.

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Opening, closing, and certificate presentation ceremonies during an international training course are of great importance, both organizationally and personally. This is why GLPI organizes these ceremonies:

## Opening Ceremony

**Welcoming Participants:** Creates a friendly and inclusive atmosphere from the outset.

**Setting the Stage:** Presents the training objectives, planned activities, and logistical constraints.

**Participant Engagement:** Generates enthusiasm and interest, thus encouraging participants to fully invest their time.

**Networking:** Facilitates interactions between participants from different countries, cultures, and professional backgrounds.

## Closing Ceremony

**Learning Recap:** Allows participants to revisit key lessons and activities, reinforcing acquired knowledge.

**Training Evaluation:** Provides an opportunity to gather feedback and assess the impact of the training, both on the content and the organization.

**Celebrating Achievements :** Recognizes participants' commitment and efforts during their training.

**Encouragement to implementation:** Motivates participants to implement the skills they have learned in their professional context.

## Certificate Award

**Skills Recognition:** Grants official status to participants' achievements, thereby recognizing their investment in the training.

**Confidence and Motivation:** Strengthens participants' confidence in their skills and their motivation to continue their professional development.

**Networking and Opportunities:** Presenting certificates in a formal setting can also serve as a point of contact for future collaborations or professional opportunities.





## IX. MAJOR CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

Organizing a Peace Institute in the context of the Great Lakes region of Africa poses several significant challenges, including:

- 1. Persistent Conflict and Instability:** We organized the Institute at a time when the region is marked by conflicts related to ethnic, political, and economic rivalries. This means that humanitarian assistance has become the priority for most NGOs. As a challenge, the number of participants is limited.
- 3. Lack of Resources:** Securing the necessary financial resources to establish and operate a peace institute remains a major challenge, especially in unstable contexts.

**Educational Levels:** The low educational level of some participants remains a challenge, as we often welcome participants with the same qualifications but without the same skills.

## X. LESSONS LEARNED

The Peace Institute in the Great Lakes Region of Africa offers several important lessons, reflecting the unique challenges and dynamics of this region. These lessons contribute not only to conflict resolution in the region, but also to the promotion of sustainable development and peaceful coexistence. Here are some key lessons:

**Community Resilience:** By listening to testimonies and personal experiences, we were able to observe that there are different methods to foster community resilience in the face of crises, by supporting local initiatives and strengthening the social fabric.

**Regional Cooperation:** We learned the importance of cooperation between neighboring countries, members of civil society, religious leaders, and state institutions to support regional stability.

**Local Capacity Building:** We also learned during field visits the need to strengthen local institutions and involve communities in peacebuilding. Importance of inclusion: Recognizing the essential role of the participation of women, youth and marginalized groups in peace processes.

## Future prospects:

A future perspective for GLPI is emerging in several strategic and operational dimensions. These perspectives will not only contribute to a more peaceful environment in the region, but also strengthen inter-community links and promote development:

### A) Technology and Innovation:

**Use of Technology:** Implement digital solutions to collect conflict data, raise awareness of peace issues, and promote community engagement.

**Awareness Campaigns:** Use social media to raise awareness and mobilize more participants at the Institute.

### B) Local Capacity Building

**Ongoing Training:** GLPI aims to offer tailored training to community leaders, youth, and women to prepare them for mediation and leadership roles in peacebuilding.

### C) Collaborative Networks

**Regional Partnerships:** Build alliances with other regional and international organizations to share best practices and resources.

**Creating Dialogue Platforms:** Facilitate spaces for dialogue between neighboring nations to resolve tensions in a timely manner.

### D) Holistic Approaches

**Interdisciplinarity:** GLPI aims to combine economic, social, and environmental development approaches to address the root causes of conflict.

### E) Peace Education:

Integrate peace education into school curricula to promote values of tolerance and respect from an early age.

### F) Knowledge Sharing:

Publish case studies and experience reports to fuel debates and research on peace.

## XII. CONCLUSION

Ultimately, this report highlights the complex challenges facing the Great Lakes Region of Africa, while underscoring the significant potential for building lasting peace. Armed conflicts, ethnic rivalries, and social inequalities remain major obstacles, but the collective commitment of stakeholders, including governments, community organizations, and civil society, offers a glimmer of hope.

We noticed that building local capacity, including marginalized actors in peace processes, and leveraging innovative technologies are essential to advancing dialogue and reconciliation. Promoting transitional justice and peace education are emerging as effective measures to address the root causes of conflict.



## IMPORTANT STEPS IN PREPARING THE OCTOBER INSTITUTE

Preparations for the Peacebuilding Institute include several key steps and elements essential to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Here is a list of the most important elements:

1. **Stakeholder Consultation:** GLPI management engages its technical team and the main MCC partner to gather diverse perspectives on peace and development training needs and facilitator profiles.
2. **Formation of a Multidisciplinary Team:**  
**Peace and Development Experts:** GLPI management contacts and engages internationally renowned facilitators and other professionals with specific experience in peacebuilding and development.  
**Language translation Expertise:** GLPI management also engages language translation specialists.  
**Identification of a Volunteer Team:** GLPI identifies dynamic young volunteers from among its graduates from previous years. Their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment make them essential players in the smooth running of the Institute.
3. **Training Program Development. Adapted Modules:** GLPI management develops, in collaboration with its facilitators, adapted and up-to-date training modules.
4. **Building Partnerships and Resource Mobilization:** Collaboration with Other Organizations: GLPI contacts various local and international NGOs, academic institutions, and individuals to mobilize the necessary funding sources.  
**Equipment and Infrastructure:** Ensures that the institute has the necessary facilities and material resources to conduct training and activities.
5. **Awareness and Communication to Participants:** Awareness Campaigns: GLPI launches an awareness campaign within communities, NGOs, and partners to mobilize as many diverse participants as possible.
6. **Sharing Information :** GLPI uses communication platforms to disseminate progress and participant recruitment.
7. **Establishing final participant lists:** Based on the applications received, GLPI management selects participants according to established criteria. Our training courses are tailored to individuals engaged or seeking to engage in conflict transformation.
8. **Contacting administrative authorities:** GLPI management ensures that administrative authorities are well informed and provide their support.
9. **Visits and arrangement of the Institute's premises:** The GLPI team conducts several visits to the training sites and simultaneously prepares all the necessary materials for the smooth running of the training.