



COMICS
POWER!

APDH & WORLD COMICS FINLAND: BURUNDI WORKSHOP



Burundi Training of Grassroots Comics Tutors - workshop report

Organisations:

Association pour la Paix et les Droits de l'Homme, Association for Peace and Human Rights, (APDH), NGOZI, Quartier KIRWATI, no 31, Burundi email: apdhburundi@yahoo.fr

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Summary: This report covers the grassroots comics tutor-training workshop with subsequent test group workshops in Ngozi July 6 -14, 2010.

World Comics Finland was requested to run the workshops as a beginning for APDH's one-year project: "Towards a culture of democracy in Burundi: local comics on elections and governance."

The workshop trained 20 grassroots comics tutors (7 women and 13 men) from 8 different organizations, active in Northern Burundi (Annex 1). The new tutors ran test workshops for about 40 participants in three locations in Ngozi.

A total of 60 wallposter comics were produced during the workshops and distributed in three locations. The feedback from the communities was very encouraging. The project will continue with production and distribution of grassroots comics in the participating groups.



Two Kirundi-language training manuals were prepared for the project. All participating organizations also received a copy of the book "*Grassroots comics – a development communication tool*", by Leif Packalen and Sharad Sharma, 160 pp., published by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 2007.

Funding: Local cooperation funds, Embassy of Finland, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

APDH Team:

Camille Munezero, President of APDH
René Claude Niyonkuru, Project Coordinator
Ernest Kamwenubusa, Logistics Coordinator
Bruno Kaneza, Logistics Assistant
Eric Nkhazibahizi, Interpreter (English/French/Kirundi)

World Comics Finland Team:

Leif Packalen, Trainer
Johanna Rojola, Trainer

Venue: Eveché Centre (Diocesan Center), Ngozi



Eveché (Diocesan Center), Ngozi. Drawing by Leif Packalen.

Workshop programme:

Saturday, July 3

The World Comics Finland team, Leif Packalen and Johanna Rojola left Helsinki at 20.00 via Stockholm and Addis Abeba to Bujumbura.

Sunday, July 4

The team arrived at 15.00 and was met by René Claude Niyonkuru and Eric Nkhazibahizi. All arrived in Ngozi 18.30 and had a welcome dinner with APDH Board members. The team was lodged in the Eveché Training Centre behind the cathedral.

Monday, July 5

Preparations for the workshops, visiting APDH's office, getting inking pens and other material from local suppliers. The text for the Kirundi comics manual was gone through by a four-man team from APDH and the final layout was prepared by Leif and Eric (who had done the



Workshop preparations. Drawing by Leif Packalen.

quite demanding translation from English to Kirundi and who also interpreted at the workshop).

Tuesday, July 6

The workshop was opened at 9.30 and started, after the introductions, with the presentation of the grassroots comics concept. Themes were chosen for the stories and the story proposals were on issues like: injustice, land conflicts and gender, sexual abuse, child rights, malnutrition,



Diocesan Center, Eric Nkhazibahizi interprets for Leif Packalen. Photo: Johanna Rojola.



Lucie, Gilbert, Eugenie and Marthe busy drawing. Photo: Leif Packalen.

witch doctors, family planning, violence against women, illegal arms, etc. When the stories were ready for the next step, drawing exercises were made. The participants all kept a “trainer’s notebook” in which they recorded every day what was difficult and other things they thought would be important for their own running of comics workshops in the future.

Wednesday, July 7

The work was started at 8.00 am with a *croquis* drawing exercise. Then came the basic rules of comics, reading order, placement of text, visual effects, etc. The participants divided their final stories into four parts, and the idea of a visual script was explained.

The work proceeded with visual scripts, their revision and beginning of the original artwork including inking. The first comic was finished at 16.30. By 16.45 the participants were requested to write down the day’s experiences in their trainer’s notebooks, and the day was closed. Some of the participants stayed and finished their inking while Eric and Leif worked on the Kirundi training plan in the workshop hall.

Thursday, July 8

The last artworks were finished. After that, the basics of feedback

and review of the comics were explained and the participants were divided into two groups. The review sessions followed and subsequent corrections were made into the artworks. The comics were collected for photocopying and scripts for new stories were started. Themes: environmental issues, children’s rights, women in governance, violation in marriage, corruption, good governance, family planning, sexual abuse, belonging to a political party, land conflict, tradition, and violence against women.

The participants took copies of their comics to show them to their friends and families. All were requested to report on the comments they received about their comics.

In the evening Johanna, Leif, and Gilbert went to the Internet café to get the comics scanned, but with no success. The owner promised that the scanner could be borrowed some evening.



Workshop participants. Drawing by Johanna Rojola.



Eric Nkhazibahizi vigorously interpreting Marie-Rose Ndikumana. Photo: Leif Packalen.

Friday, July 9

The comments to the comics, which the participants had collected the previous evening, were discussed. Many viewers had expressed their amazement about the hidden artistic capacities of the participants - people they knew from an entirely different role in life. When they heard that these comics were a result of a two-day workshop training, they wanted the participant to share his knowledge and teach them to draw as well. NGO activists got immediately excited about the possibilities of the medium for conveying their messages. An often heard comment was also that readers knew someone who had had the same kind of experiences as depicted in the comic.

Viewers also often commented on the quality of the artwork, and sometimes their advice was proposing better readability in order to understand of the message correctly.

Training and teaching were then discussed in general and the forthcoming test group workshops in detail. A timetable was decided for the coming week. The trainer's manual was explained step by step. The participants were divided into three groups, and each group chose one liaison person, after which the teach-

ing tasks within the groups were divided. Each group prepared and gave a presentation of one topic in the manual. The last hour of the day was spent discussing the practicalities of logistics, materials, locations and participants of the test group workshops.

Ernest spent almost all day organizing the workshops of the coming week: logistics, locations, participants, etc. Bruno took care of photocopying the artwork, the Kirundi tutor's manuals and manuals for the participants. There were some blackouts delaying the work.

In the evening the scanner was borrowed and all the original artwork was scanned.



Lucie explaining visual script. Drawing by Johanna Rojola.



*Johanna Rojola sorting training material for the test groups.
Photo: Leif Packalen.*

Saturday, July 10

After breakfast Johanna and Leif worked out the Photoshop procedures for scanning and storing the comics. Afternoon was time off with visits to a tea factory, an artificial lake and a hydro-electric plant in Kayanza province and Rwegura together with René Claude, Bruno and Eric.

Sunday, July 11

After breakfast, Johanna started working with the original artwork in Photoshop. René Claude and Ernest arrived at 11 a.m. and the remaining program, future activities, reporting and other

practicalities of the workshop were discussed. The Photoshop work was ready at around 7 p.m. Bruno was looking for the last missing supplies for the workshops and in the evening Bruno and Eric stapled all 50 manuals.

Monday, July 12

The tutor-trainees met at the Eveché at 8 a.m, collected the workshop material and left to three different locations to run their own test workshops.

Eveché (Conference room): The group had six tutor-trainees and 16 test group participants (9 women, 7 men). The majority of the participants were students at Ngozi University. By the end of the day the group had started their visual scripts.

Busiga: The group had six tutor-trainees and 12 test group participants (8 women, 4 men). Most of the women were leaders of women groups. The workshop was held in a primary school classroom.

Gashikanwa: The group had six tutor-trainees and 11 test group participants (7 women, 4 men). The workshop was held in a primary school classroom.



The Eveché test group at work. Photo: Leif Packalen.

The groups had not encountered any logistics problems; food, transport, etc. had all worked well.

Tuesday, July 13

The tutor-trainees met at the Eveché at 8 a.m. and proceeded to their own workshops.

Eveché: The themes of the stories were on education, corruption, witch doctors, drugs, court delays, discrimination of women, conflicts between parties, abandoned children, polygamy, etc.

Busiga: The themes of the stories were on polygamy, drugs, injustice, hiv, women's rights, corruption, family planning, ignorance and discrimination of women.

Gashikanwa: The themes of the stories were on family planning, corruption, pure water, violence against women, injustice at court and land conflict.

All groups finished their comics, which were taken for photocopying to be ready for distribu-



Test group participant at Gashinkanwa. Photo: Johanna Rojola.

tion on the next day. The group at Eveché even finished their feedback session.

In the evening Johanna instructed Gilbert in the strip conversion techniques using Photoshop.



The test group at Busiga included women leaders. Photo: Johanna Rojola.



The test workshop in Gashinkanwa took place at the local primary school. Photo: Johanna Rojola.

Wednesday, July 14

After critique sessions, the groups in Busiga and Gashinkanwa distributed their comics in the community and collected feedback. The group at the Eveché distributed its comics in Ngozi town at the market. The test group workshops were then finished and the test participants went home after lunch.

In the afternoon all tutors gathered at the

Eveché and presented their reports from the test workshops.

Eveché: Many of the test group participants had expressed doubts that they could achieve the goal of making a wallposter comic themselves and had been very happy to succeed. The response from the distribution had been very encouraging. Even illiterate people eagerly came to look at the comics. People were very helpful and forthcoming with giving permission to put



Busiga test group ready to distribute the comics. Photo: Leif Packalen.



Left: The comics were pasted at the entrance of Lycée Busiga. Photo: Leif Packalen

Above and below: Comics pasted in different places in Ngozi town. Photo: Johanna Rojola.

up the comics. Some wanted to have more copies to put them up in their own neighborhoods.

Busiga: At the outset of the workshop, the test group participants were concerned that this new method would be too difficult for them, as they had only limited education. Most of them were leaders in their communities and therefore could appreciate the value of the new communication method. At the end of the workshop they were congratulating themselves that they had succeeded so well. Some of them could not write properly, but drew the letters after a model alphabet. Their comics were distributed mainly on the walls of the Lycée Busiga, an all-girls secondary school. The comics generated a lot of interest with the students. One participant commented that she was especially proud that the Lycée girls had appreciated her comic, as she herself has very little education.

Gashikanwa: The test group participants had been hesitant about their own skills at first, but after the drawing exercises they gained confidence and carried on very well. The tutor-trainees had shown them the comics they had made during the previous week and they had

explained that they had had the same doubts. The comics had been distributed in the administrative area of Gashikanwa and the community response had been very encouraging. People commented that the stories were relevant (many stories were on clean water, which is a local dilemma) and had good messages. Some men commented that the stories were too much





Closing event at the Swimming Club in Ngozi. Photo: Leif Packalen.

about women. One test group participant said that it had made her very happy to see people read her comic.

Then followed a general discussion on what had been the most difficult steps to teach. Many tutor-trainees said it had been difficult to break the stories into four parts and get a good sequence. Also to find a right balance between images and texts in the stories had been hard.

All tutor-trainees were confident that they could go on with training new people in making comics.

Leif demonstrated two other photocopy formats: the eight-page booklet and the accordion mini-booklet. The exact instructions are available in the book "Grassroots Comics – a development communication tool" which had been distributed to all tutor-trainees in the beginning of the workshop.

The tutor-trainees wrote workshop evaluation replies (anonymously) to three questions:

1. What went well?
2. What could be improved?
3. Do you have any additional comments?

The replies (in Kirundi) were collected by APDH,



The APDH office in Ngozi. Photo Leif Packalen.

and a summary of the replies is annexed to this report (Annex 2).

The workshop closing ceremony was held at a swimming club in Ngozi, with certificates, speeches, gifts, music and socializing.

Thursday, July 15

René Claude Niyonkuru (Project Coordinator), Camille Munezero (APDH President), Leif Packalen and Johanna Rojola of World Comics Finland met at the APDH's office to discuss the future.

It was noted/agreed:

- René Claude will continue to be Project Coordinator for the Comics Project
- evaluation summaries will be sent to World Comics Finland before August
- the workshop report will be completed by Leif before the end of August
- five Kirundi comics, chosen by APDH, will be inserted in the Kirundi manual
- the report, the Kirundi manuals and some comics will be included on World Comics Finland's website



René Claude Niyonkuru and Camille Munezero. Drawing by Johanna Rojola.

A written copyright permission to publish material from the comics project was given to World Comics Finland.

In the afternoon Johanna, Leif and René Claude left for Bujumbura.

Friday, July 16

By noon René Claude and Eric took Johanna and Leif to the airport, where they took off for Addis Abeba.

Saturday, July 17

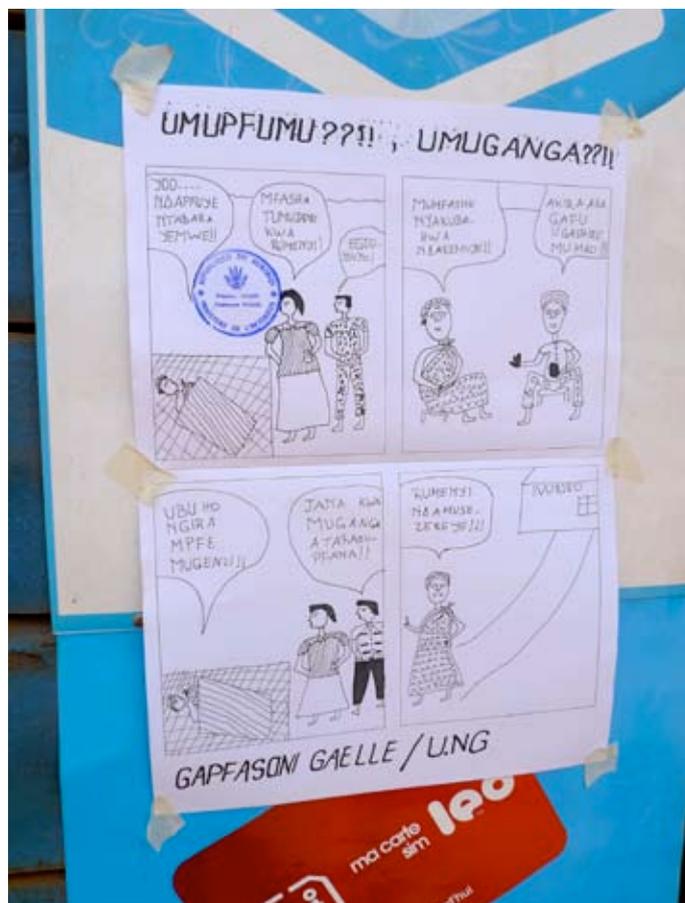
Arriving in Paris and continuing to Helsinki, arriving at 11.30.

Vantaa/Helsinki

July, 2010

Leif Packalen *Johanna Rojola*
World Comics Finland World Comics Finland

The project continues for a year with production and local distribution of grassroots comics wallposters by APDH and its network. APDH monitors the local distribution and keeps an archive of all the comics produced within the project. APDH publishes a collection of the comics. The comics will also be distributed for publication in the local press and later made available online.



Above: Comic on the wall in Ngozi town. Photo: Johanna Rojola.

Below left: Busiga test group happy with their achievement. Drawing by Leif Packalen.

Below right: Detail from a comic on heritage of land by Jérémie Rubabaza.



Annex 1

Liste de participants en l'atelier de BD, Ngozi 6.7 – 14.7.2010

Organisation	Noms et prénoms	Responsabilités
APDH		
1.	Kamwenubusa Ernest	Coordonateur du Projet Umwizero
2.	Rukizangabo Eufrème	Président de la section Muyinga
3.	Kaneza Bruno Nicaise	Volontaire/Chercheur/ Ngozi
4.	Nibitanga Séverin	Volontaire/Chercheur /Ngozi
5.	Jean Claude Gitega	
6.	Rubabaza Jérémie	A.T /Umwizero /Gasorwe /Muyinga
7.	Emerimana Chanelle	A.T /Umwizero /Gashikanwa /Ngozi
8.	Barutwanayo Serge	A.T /Umwizero/Ntega /Kirundo
9.	Niyongabo Eric	Président de la section Ngozi
10.	Muheto Ananie	A.T /Ishaka /Bujumbura
11.	Ndikumana Rose	A.T /Ishaka /Gitega
12.	Manirakiza Emmanuel	A.T /Ishaka /Bujumbura
AFEBEO		
13.	Rwasa Edith	Coordinatrice de Projet /Ngozi
Établissements scolaires		
14.	Twagirayezu J. Marie	Directeur du Lycée Communal Busiga
15.	Nizigiyimana Lucie	Professeur au Lycée Don Bosco /Ngozi
ABUBEF		
16.	Karabaza Gaston Gilbert	Coordonateur du Projet Umwizero/Ngozi
CDF		
17.	Ahishakiye Godeberthe	Coordinatrice Provinciale /Ngozi
THARS		
18.	Gakobwa Eugénie	Responsable de la sensibilisation/Ngozi
AVEDEC		
19.	Macuma, Lupien	Responsable provincial de la mobilisation
ABDP		
20.	Nzeyimana Dieudonné	Chef d'antenne Ngozi

Les organisations sont:

Association pour la Paix et les Droits de l'Homme (APDH), Ngozi /Muyinga, Kirundo, Gitega et Bujumbura

Association pour le Bien Etre Familial (ABUBEF)

Centre pour le Développement Familial (CDF)

Association des Femmes pour l'Education et le Bien Etre des Enfants Orphelins (AFEBEO)

Administrations communales

Association Villageoise d'Entraide et de Développement Communautaire (AVEDEC)



Detail from a comic on violence against women by Emerimana Chanelle

Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS)

Annex 2

Evaluation Summary (+ I indicates number of mentions)

This worked very well:

- Facilitating the training was very good (good trainers); + IIIII III
- The training was very useful and motivating / acquisition of new skills; + IIIII I
- The training material was adequate and sufficient; + IIIII
- The training methodology was suitable (participatory); + I
- The training was characterized by a spirit of openness and self-criticism; + I
- The number of participants was reasonable, thus facilitating a good learning;
- Participation of beneficiaries was very active;
- The location of the training was adequate;
- The participants and trainers followed the training schedule well;
- The catering was very good;
- Useful in a context of widespread illiteracy;
- General organization of the training (themes, sequences, ...);
- The training was conducted in the local language (Kirundi);
- There was enough time for questions;
- Targeting of the participants was excellent (all based in community organisations)

What did not work very well:

- The time for training was insufficient; + IIIII II
- There were not enough exercises; +I
- The training was long and tiring;
- The detailed training program was not made available in advance;
- Illiterate people in the test groups made it more difficult to train the group

Recommendations:

- Provide follow-up training; + III
- Extend training to other people, especially students, as it is very useful in a context of illiteracy; + I
- Training on the manipulation of drawings with free computer software; + I
- Make available instruction books on the methodology for documentation;
- Make available material for the purposes of training;
- Arrange follow-up sessions on how to apply knowledge acquired in the communities



Busiga test group, critique session. Photo: Leif Packalen.

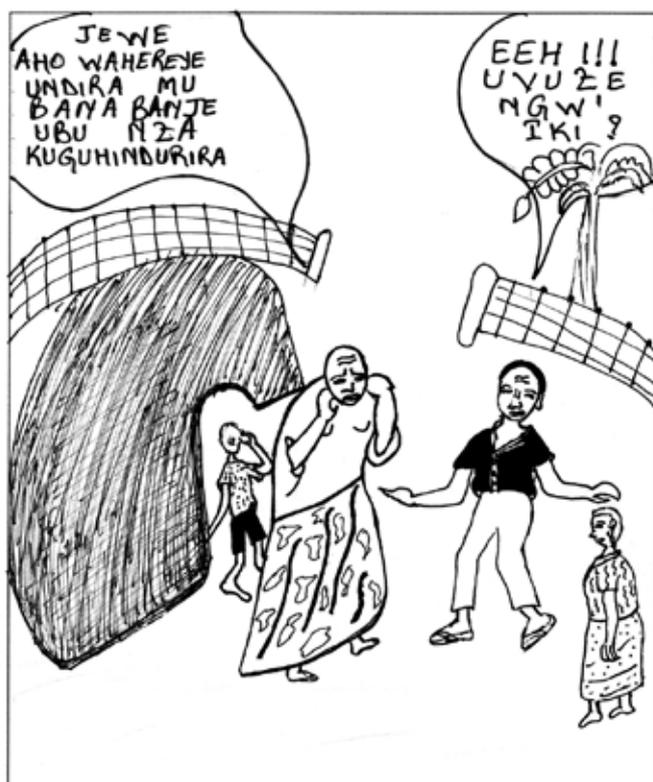
IMIGAMBWE NTIYOBA INTANDARO Y'IMIRYANO



Fant par
Eric Niyongabo
APDH | Section Ngozi

Belonging to different political parties. Two neighbours have a heated debate on politics and end up fighting. A passer-by asks why they fight. The men realize there is no point in fighting only because of belonging to different political parties. Instead, they decide to go to a pub to share a beer. Story by Eric Niyongabo, APDH, Ngozi.

AMABI AKORERWA ABAKENYEZI



Violence against women. A man abuses his wife while their children look on, alarmed. A neighbour takes the wife to a Women's NGO, which helps her to lodge a complaint with the police. Two police officers come to arrest the man, and the children thank them. Story by Ms. M. Rose Ndikumana of APDH, Ishaka, Gitega.

**M. ROSE NDIKUMANA
APDH - ISHAKA GITEGA**

TWIRINDE INDWARA ZIVA MUGUFUNGURA NABI



GAKOBWA EUGENIE / THARS NGOZI

Balanced diet. A father takes care of his children alone. He cooks only cassava for them. After some months they complain about being weak and having stomach problems. The father takes them to the doctor, who explains that he must give the children a balanced diet. The father is grateful for the advice. Story by Ms. Eugenie Gakobwa from the organisation THARS in Ngozi.

A KARENGANYO?



BIGIZWE NA JEN-CLAUDE APDH GITEGA

Story about land conflict.

UGUTOTEZWA



BIGIZWE NA E. CHANELLE A.P.DH/NGOZI

A man abuses his wife, who decides not to cook for him, although she already has a fire going. The man boils water on the fire and throws it at her. After receiving first-aid, she reports the case to the police. Story by Ms. E. Chanelle of APDH in Ngozi.

INDYANE Z'AMATONGO



M. EMMANUEL - A.P.D.H/ESHAKA

story about land conflict.

TURWANJE GUFATWA KU NGUNU.



GILBERT / ABUBEF

explanatory text missing