

**Twese For Peace National Camp**  
Burundi  
Middlebury College  
Armel Arnaud Nibasumba'16, Burundi, Middlebury College, Waterford Kamhlaba UWCSA'11

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Section I

Project goals

*Twese For Peace National Camp* is a summer camp that aims to introduce the concept of entrepreneurship and conflict management to students aged between 17 and 23 from all the corners of Burundi. Our goal is to create a generation of peace minded entrepreneurs for a sustainable future and a better Burundi through exposure to the process of problem identification, problem solving and idea implementation added to a deeper understanding of the history of conflicts in Burundi, the fundamentals of conflict resolution and how to be a peace builder.

Project overview

The camp was held from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 in Bujumbura, the capital city of Burundi, in a boarding school located in the north of the city. We recruited participants through an application document that was shared on social media and in paper version. The application was made of questions that provided basic information about the applicant such as name, school and age. Added to that, the applicants had to respond to other questions that allowed us to see what kind of activities they are involved in in their respective schools, what their hopes are for the country, how creative they are and why they would like to be part of *Twese For Peace*. We selected 35 participants from 10 provinces in a pool of 168 applications from 15 of the 17 provinces that make Burundi. The anticipated difficulty was to find applicants from all over the country and not just the city due to limited access to internet in most rural parts of the country. Furthermore, the other difficulty was to find a location that was accessible, safe and could host us within our budget limits. Social media (Facebook, twitter, Whatsapp, Viber app), radio, local TV stations and word of mouth were fantastic tools to get our word around and advertise about the camp.

For the entrepreneurship training, we used the BUILD (Build Understand Invent Listen Deliver) model, African Leadership Academy's entrepreneurship and leadership curriculum which is human centered approach to entrepreneurship training, and Babson college's "From idea's to action: a guide for young entrepreneurs". They learnt about the importance of believing in themselves, how an entrepreneur uses his community as his inspiration and sees opportunities instead of seeing problems. For the conflict management, the participants started by learning the history of conflicts in Burundi, peace building

strategies and the theory can be applicable in a Burundian context especially with the upcoming elections in 2015. Over the course of the 12 days, participants had to cohabitate, play together, debate against each other and go beyond mere ethnical differences to get to know each other better. The camp finished with an Idea Festival where the participants engaged in a pitching competition which allowed them to put what they had been learning in a creative way. These ideas were both reassuring and comforting as they came up with creative ideas to solve issues they encounter in their various communities. The feedback we got from the participants was that the camp was a great way to create a safe space where they enjoyed getting to know each other, discuss about topics that are taboo in Burundian society. The camp was a great catalyst for camaraderie, tolerance and development of leadership skills.

## Section II

### Peace according to us

I grew up in war where gun shots would be heard every day and news of numerous people was part of our daily life. I always thought that peace means absence of fighting. Years after the war ended, I now believe that peace is also the freedom to express what you want, ability to be tranquil in your mind and the presence of sustainable stability. Peace is also justice and the respect of every human.

*Twese For Peace* strives to create a new generation of Burundian, whose patriotic heart strives for a sustainable economy and peace. Participants don't just learn about skills that will allow them to create their own businesses, they learn about what has gone wrong in our history and how can we not make the same mistake in the future. We foster a community that celebrates diversity, where being Tutsi or Hutu is redefined for a better future. Fighting youth unemployment, 12 days are not enough to give them all the skillset they would need. However, we give them the confidence that it is possible to be an entrepreneur and that you do not need millions to turn your creative ideas into action. We provide them with a network of friends and entrepreneurs they can rely on to push forward their enterprises. *Twese For Peace* is actively paving the way for a better Burundi; there is no sustainable economic development without sustainable peace and there is no sustainable peace without a sustainable economic development. This camp has made me rediscover the joys of giving back and the beauty of nation. I believe I am a better leader now and I am looking forward to the growth of this camp.

*"Leading Twese For Peace National Camp was a great challenge I enjoyed solving every day. Being in charge of young adults for 12 days expanded my leadership abilities, taught me numerous lessons about life and gave me a great platform to use my social skills for a greater good. I believe I am a history maker destined to bring change and running a social entrepreneurship project in Burundi allowed me to see what it takes to make change happen"*

*Armel Arnaud Nibasumba*

