



WORKSHOP NARRATIVE REPORT

Title: *Teaching about Holocaust, Genocide and Mass Atrocities: Learning about the Past to Shape the Future, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.*

Summary

A workshop was held in the Democratic Republic of Congo on December 8 and 9, 2021 to teachers from primary, secondary and universities. The workshop was hosted by The Educators Institute for Human Rights (EIHR) and its Congolese partner the Programme of Actions for Sustainable Development (PADS). This workshop held in hybrid format brought together 157 teachers the first day and 189 the second day to follow hate prevention education. Participants followed the workshop from six different sites, notably: Kinshasa, Goma, Beni, Mangurejipa, Sake and Bukavu, in addition to other connected remotely thanks to the Zoom platform. This first ever event on Holocaust and Mass Atrocities in DRC has been echoed and built organizers' reputation thanks to strategic collaboration with the Anne Frank House, Aegis Trust, Institute for Economic and Peace (IEP) and the Bylo Chacon Foundation who voluntarily offered facilitators for this workshop. This Peace Education Program aimed to sensitize teachers on tolerance, peaceful cohabitation and hate prevention to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, community resilience, conflict transformation and systems thinking in a country which has experienced conflict for more than two decades.

Initially the workshop targeted 20 teachers in Kinshasa only. At the end of application process, we had received approximately 400 applications including hand filled and online applications in addition to a correspondence received from the North Kivu Education Provincial Inspectorate requesting this training opportunity for 21,000 teachers under its supervision. Workshop participants formulated numerous recommendations among which expanding the training to educators in remote areas, increase the training duration, organization of regular sessions, advocating for integration of the peace education into curriculum and making available materials that teachers can use in class for lesson preparation. The representative of the Ministry of High Education requested that a strategic discussion on integrating peace education into existing courses be opened between EIHR-PADS and his service to support the undergoing vast reform in the country's high education and solicited that EIHR-PADS reach out to the Ministry of Primary and Secondary schools to look at possibilities of integrating Peace Education into the national education curriculum.

Background

The idea to organize a workshop on the Holocaust, genocide and mass atrocities in DRC was born following Congolese delegation participation into the Genocide prevention workshop that was organized by EIHR in Kigali in January 2020. The first target to host such project was the Eastern part of the DRC which experience violent and deadly cohabitation of different tribes. Beside the armed conflict, the eastern part of the country has gone under ethnic conflict resulting in hate, tribalism, intolerance with dangerous consequences such as targeted mass killing, destruction of entire village and anger against people of different origin.



In course of the situational analysis we came to realize peace education is top priority across all the 26 provinces as an illustration we can mention problems with pastoralists Hema against agriculturalists Lendu in Ituri, cohabitation issues between immigrants from Rwanda and Burundi with the rest of the population in North and South Kivu, customary conflict opposing ethnic groups in the Kasai region, regionalism issue in Kinshasa perceivable in public service delivery and governance system which based on the subdivision of the country's linguistic zones (Lingala, Kikongo, Tshiluba, and Swahili), rejection of non-natives in the Kongo Central, difficult tolerance of population in Northern part of the country (Equateur, Haut Uele, Ubangi provinces) toward pastoralist Mbororo who came from deserted country in North Africa, etc...

This pilot project targeted 20 teachers from primary and secondary schools as well as universities in the capital city of Kinshasa. Based on the high number of application from the province of North and South Kivu which is the hub of the difficult ethnic cohabitation this training opportunity was opened up to other sites given the fact facilitators were making presentations online. The strategic collaboration between PADS and EIHR, Anne Frank house, IEP Aegis Trust has brought more credibility to this workshop and it was the responsibility of the partner on the ground to keep good reputation and maintain credibility of other partners.

Objectives

- Improving teachers understanding of holocaust, genocide, and mass atrocities to their root causes and prevention;
- Introducing teachers to Jewish life, memories, and available resources.
- Connecting historical mass atrocity events with local context to preventing hate in DRC.

Workshop activities development

As mentioned above PADS received a good number of applications among which teachers, journalists, human rights activists as well as other categories. Part of the application was conducted online through google form and forms filled out by hand. A list of forms filled out by hand is attached to this report (Annex 1). Also, the North Kivu Provincial Education Inspection submitted a letter requesting training for approximately 21,000 teachers under its management (See Annex 2). It was essential to keep good reputation of the organizers of the seminars (PADS and EIHR) and of other structures that were mentioned to provide facilitators (Anne Frank House, IEP, Aegis trust, etc...) as well as to make this event echoed in different sites even though there was no possibility to have everyone selected for this first event. Some of applicants who reached out by phone have been told there will be other sessions in the future and we will make sure there are on priority list for next workshops.

To make this first workshop accessible to large number than the initial target PADS deployed staff in different sites with their personal smartphones and computers to help teachers follow facilitators' presentations. A conference room was rented in Kinshasa as budgeted but other locations were negotiated and offered some time for free or with payment of little amount. The conference room in Kinshasa was an ideal setting which got good impression and visibility of the workshop itself. To avoid COVID 19 risk contamination all measure to stop virus spread were put in place such as distribution of masks, use of detergent and social



distancing. This setting hosted 28 teachers the first day and 33 second day. The good news is that no contamination has been reported because of this gathering which is another reason for celebration! In Goma, PADS negotiated with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to obtain their conference room which hosted 6 teachers. The WWF offered this room for free. In Sake, village of the Masisi territory 35 teachers assembled to follow workshop in front of one computer connected to internet with shared data from our staff's smartphone who travelled out there each day of the workshop from Goma. Some of the teachers in the Masisi territory walked by foot approximately 10 to 15 Km to join the site where conference is followed. In the city center of Beni where PADS has the office 53 teachers were connected from three different sites. The first room hosted 19, the second 19 and the third 19 teachers. These three sites followed the seminar from TV screen connected to computers with internet data. In Mangurejipa, a village distant 60 km from the city of Beni in the Lubero territory, our staff travelled there to help 20 teachers the first day and 36 teachers the second day to accessing the workshop. Some of the teachers walked from villagers around to come to the workshop sites at the center of the Mangurejipa village where one computer was installed for the cause. In Bukavu, the capital city of South Kivu province five people was connected from their own offices and smartphones to follow the seminar.

This workshop received governmental quietus. The Ministry of High Education was represented by one of his advisors; in his opening remarks he requested both PADS and EIHR and all other institutions involved into this seminar to think of opening strategic discussion with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary school to integrate peace education into national curriculum. Also, as the Ministry of High Education is undertaking serious reform in his sector, he did ask PADS and EIHR to get in touch with his ministry to see possibilities of the inclusion of peace education subject into existing courses.

Anne Frank House negotiated with the Netherlands Embassy to colour this first event in the country about holocaust with distribution of the Anne Frank journal. Unfortunately, DHL failed to deliver the books in time as the custom claimed payment of taxes. Therefore, the books were not handed at the closing day of the workshop. PADS successfully negotiated with the custom office and the embassy of Netherlands accepted to pay the amount requested for duty taxes. When Custom free up the books PADS representative made a courtesy call to the Ambassador of the Netherlands and gave one copy of the Anne Frank Journal. The rest of the 99 books are pending distribution. For Kinshasa distribution of these books to teachers who participated into the workshop will be done this week (January 4 – 8, 2022) and the rest for distribution to Goma, Beni, Sake, Mangurejipa and Bukavu will be shipped by aircargo. We are discussing at PADS level on how to cover this shipping cost.

At the end of the training a press release was issued which received large media coverage from reputable written and online press: Canal Congo TV, La tempête des tropiques, Pressecongo.net, 7sur 7.cd, rbifm. radio, Interkinois.net, ouragan.cd followed with facebook post at Anne Frank house page and PADS.

<https://www.latempete.info/?p=50311>

<https://pressecongo.net/2021/12/16/rdc-des-educateurs-congolais-en-formation-sur-lholocauste-le-genocide-et-les-atrocites-de-masse/>

<https://www.7sur7.cd/2021/12/17/rdc-plus-de-157-educateurs-formes-sur-les-causes-et-les-consequences-du-genocide>

<https://rbifm.radio/news/rdc-education-plus-de-157-educateurs-congolais-formes-par-l-ongd-pads-conjointement-avec-celle-americaine-eihr-avec-l-appui-de-l-ambassade-du-pays-bas-a-kinshasa-681>

<https://ouragan.cd/2021/12/rdc-les-educateurs-congolais-enseignes-sur-les-mefaits-des-atrocites-de%20masse>

In the evaluation form, participants expressed sincere thanks to facilitators from EIHR, PADS, IEP, Anne Frank, and Aegis Trust for their wonderful presentation on this topic which is new to many of them and formulated several recommendations to see next sessions of this seminar.

Locality	Day I (12/08/2021)	Day II (12/09/2021)
Kinshasa (One site)	28	33
Goma (One site)	16	16
Sake (One site)	35	35
Beni (Three sites)	53	64
Mangurejipa (One site)	20	36
Bukavu (Individual connection)	5	5
Total	157	189



Workshop banner at entrance gate



Teachers in Beni following from TV screen



Anne frank film projection/Kinshasa



Certificate handover in Goma



Teachers in Mangurijipa in evening



Netherlands Ambassador+ PADS Director



PADS Director handing certificate to teachers in Kinshasa

Recommendations

- Expanding this seminar to remote areas and plan to organize multiple sessions across the country
- Request the government of the DRC to conduct reform in the education sector by integrating peace education into the national curriculum
- Considering making available tools for use as teaching materials and extending this training to each teacher in the country
- Extending the duration of this training as two days is not sufficient to cover this topic
- Exhibition of this seminar to youth out of the formal school system
- Considering making continued session (regular) of this subject not sporadic
- To conduct advocacy to end ongoing massacres of the Nande in the Beni territory in North Kivu and Irumu territory in Ituri province
- To conduct advocacy for the implementation of International Court for Congo to adjudicate human violations documented in the UN mapping report because without justice and reparation there can be no peace in this country



Follow up Actions

1. EIHR and PADS need to conduct internal discussion on how to go about strategic discussion with Ministry of Primary and Secondary schools and the Ministry of High education for integration of peace education into the national curriculum
2. Formulation of written answer to the North Kivu Educational Inspection to the request of training 21,000 teachers throughout the province
3. Brainstorming on way to involve Anne Frank, Aegis Trust, Bylo Chaco Foundation, IEP and UNESCO into a more robust program for the Democratic Republic of Congo
4. To initiate strategic discussion with the Embassy of Netherlands to support DRC program

Acknowledgement of collaboration and sponsors

PADS is very thankful to EIHR for its financial contribution, help with identification of facilitators (Anne Frank, IEP, Aegis trust) and its dedication without which this seminar would not take place. We continue to believe mentioning names of well reputable organisation among the presenters such as Anne Frank House, IEP, Aegis Trust and others let people took seriously this call for application and this is commendable. Apart from the structures who provide facilitators on voluntary basis, donation of 100 books from the Netherlands embassy is such good news which future programming could build on.

Submitted:

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