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PATROCINIO
REGIONE DEL VENETO

Regional Report on Youth Policies and Violence Prevention in the Great Lakes Region, 2nd Year

By

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Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AYC	African Youth Charter
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
DPLC	District Local Peace Committee
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoK	Government of Kenya
GROOTS	Grassroots Organization Operating Together in Sisterhood
FHI	Family Health International
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana
MCDGC	Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOYAS	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
MYSA	Mathare Youth Affairs and Sports
NACADA	National Agency for the Campaign Against Drugs
NPI	Nairobi Peace Initiative
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NYC	National Youth Council
PEV	Post-Election Violence
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Cooperative
SID	Society for International Development
SME	Small and Micro Enterprises
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TACAIDS	Tanzania Commission for AIDS
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children Education Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UMATI	Umoja wa Malezi Bora Tanzania
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WEDTF	Women Entrepreneurs Development Trust Fund
YC	Youth Congress
YEN	Youth Empowerment Network
YLTP	Young Leaders Training programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper is the final outcome of field research carried out by four consultants respectively in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Tanzania. It highlights and analyzes the main causes of youth violence as well as a variety of actions undertaken to promote youth development in the region, with particular focus on violence prevention. Research for the production of this paper entailed a critical desk review of policy and programme documents pertaining to youth development in the four countries, as well as interviews with university specialists on youth-related matters, professionals and leaders of youth organizations, social community workers, police forces, civil servants, local and international agency personnel, as well as United Nations agencies working on youth related issues.

Findings demonstrate that youths are vital partners in the region for peace and development. Through their action, youth have proven that they want to be considered and that they can be recognized as part of the solution. Nevertheless youths face many challenges that can lead them to violence. These include poverty, unemployment, unequal distribution of resources, lack of opportunities for livelihood, lack of access to quality education, social and political exploitation, social exclusion, lack of political participation, and retrogressing cultural values and practices.

Countries in the region are in a learning process of trying to support and sustain the constructive involvement of youth. The prevailing legal, policy and institutional framework for youth development and empowerment is in its formative stages. It is therefore recommended that there be close cooperation between local, national and international agencies to assist countries invest in youth development and the enhancement of their participation in national processes. UNESCO and other development partners can therefore play a very important role to help the countries in the region by drawing from good practices elsewhere in the world.

1.0 Introduction

In recent years, several countries of the Great Lakes Region, such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Tanzania, have directly or indirectly been impacted by political violence and conflict resulting in large scale population displacements and humanitarian emergency situations. In this context, youth have been particularly affected by violence (whether urban, armed, gender-based or ethnic). Violence has affected young men and women in different ways, with young women being particularly affected by gender-based and sexual violence which is often based on particular social and cultural norms and stereotypes relating to masculinity and femininity. Young women also face particular barriers to social participation. Governments, UN agencies, national and international NGOs and academia have taken action to review and document the situation of youth and advocate for greater investments in youth development and participation in national processes. These measures include, among others, investments in youth development projects and the provision of youth participation in national processes. Other initiatives include the training and recruitment of teachers, investment in research, science and technology, support for girls' education, the development of youth friendly health services and the promotion of initiatives aimed at creating opportunities for young entrepreneurs.

It is within the above context that UNESCO commissioned studies to provide a review into youth involvement in violence in four countries of the Great Lakes Region: Democratic Republic of Congo (hereinafter DRC) where violence is still prevalent; Burundi which has returned to peace recently; Kenya where the eruption of post-election violence was a major trauma; and Tanzania which, while largely peaceful, has been a major recipient of refugees from other countries in the region. The intention is to provide a documentation and analysis of existing policies and research related to youth in general and youth violence prevention in particular; identify any specific policies relating to gender-related or sexual violence; and provide a mapping and summary analysis of successful practices on youth in the region.

1.1 Youth as a resource for fostering peace and development

Youth is undeniably the most important formidable force and resource a nation can have. The youth form the bulk of the population in the countries of the Great Lakes Region. Because of this, countries in the region are positioned with unprecedented opportunity of being endowed with a large "youth capital" which needs to be harnessed. Given an opportunity, the youth have proven to be a critical social capital that can contribute significantly to peace and development. They have great potential, dynamism, resourcefulness, resiliency, and aspiration. Despite the lack of institutional and informal support systems in the wake of a crisis, youth have demonstrated in many occasions that they can be among the first to assist in community assessments, relief work and peace-building efforts. Their direct involvement in these efforts has proven to consistently contribute to create their sense of pride, worth and belonging, empower them as full citizens and mitigate the impact of the crisis for them and others.

However, today's youth face different challenges and risks in emergency, transition and post-conflict situations. They are more likely to be used as perpetrators of conflicts or civil disorders, forced and manipulated in the armed forces, become targets of sexual violence, contract sexually transmitted infections (STIs; including HIV) and other infections and miss out on education opportunities. Adequate support, guidance and access to necessary resources can help youth provide the foundation for rebuilding

lives and communities. Empowering youth to act as agents of change in the wake of a crisis, including peace-building, is essential.

1.2 Legal framework for youth development and violence prevention

TANZANIA: Tanzania developed its current **National Youth Development Policy** in 2007. The policy provides a comprehensive situation analysis of the youth in Tanzania, which includes hazardous working conditions, a pronounced and persistent threat from HIV and AIDS, inadequate access to ICT and other forms of information, communication and knowledge. Other deficiencies captured in the policy include: meager employment opportunities, weak participation in governance matters, absence of a body to organize the youth. The policy also aims at creating a **National Youth Council**. The council is meant to be a link between youth inside and outside the country as regards matters that concern their rights and benefits. So far efforts to create the council have not been successful because of the apparent fears and mistrust between stakeholders and the government¹. This delayed establishment of the national youth council has also delayed the establishment of youth development committees at the District level. District youth development committees were supposed to assist “in starting and developing soft loan funds in their localities” so as to enable more youths to benefit from loans, act as trustees to youth groups, and assist youth programs on various issues as they emerge². Tanzania also has a **National Sports Policy**, currently undergoing a review in order to match it with international positions, which require adherence to a formal definition of sports development, instead of the old definition whereby sports were deemed as “physical fitness, mental fitness, and social well-being.”³

BURUNDI. In Burundi, the Government has realized the need to support the youth and to fight against potential factors of frustration among young people. **The Sport, Youth and Cultural Government Department** has developed a **National Youth Policy**⁴ This policy is currently being revised, notably for its integration into the framework of the National Strategy for the Fight against Poverty. The main problems identified in the policy are: the mismatch between the training received by young people and the realities of the labor market; the high rate of youth unemployment; the uncoordination of management structures of the young; the poor leadership capacities for youth associations; and the increasing HIV prevalence among young people. The main actions identified to solve these problems are : the elaboration of a national youth policy; the improvement of the youth’s economic position by carrying out youth initiatives of self-employment, creating a National Youth Fund, supporting youth initiatives whose goal is to improve their economic position , organizing training on self-employment, leadership, peace building, fighting AIDS and youth violence, implementing youth associations and meetings between youth of different social categories; the development of policies in favor of marginalized groups; the creation of youth houses in all provinces of the country to promote meetings between youth and carry out researches/actions about the youth problems. In that objective, two researches have been published: “youth in conflict with law”, and “Youth in danger” by CERFOPAX (Research and Training for Peace Center, at Burundi University)⁵

KENYA: In Kenya the **Kenya National Youth Policy**(KNYP), 2007 states the following vision, “The National Youth Policy visualizes a society where youth has as equal an opportunity as other citizens to

¹Young People’s Possibilities for Influence in Tanzania, pg 8

² Ibid, pg 9

³ Sport for Development and Peace: Proceedings of the Regional Ministerial Roundtable, pg 34

⁴ MINISTERE DE LA JEUNESSE , DES SPORTS ET DE LA CULTURE : « *Politique sectorielle, période 2006-2010* », Bujumbura, mai 2006

⁵ Ibid

realize their fullest potential, productively participate in economic, social, political, cultural and religious life without fear or favour". The policy claims to be driven by principles of respect of cultural belief systems and ethical values, equity and accessibility, gender inclusiveness, good governance, and mainstreaming youth issues. The KNYP defines youth as those between 15 and 30 years. The overall policy goal is "to promote youth participation in democratic processes as well as in community and civic affairs, and ensuring that youth programs involve them and are youth centered." The policy objectives are: to sensitize national policy makers on the need to identify and mainstream youth issues in national development, to emphasize, and support positive and effective initiatives and programs set up by associations that help youth fulfill their expectations and needs, to create proper conditions for the youth to empower themselves and exploit their potential, to identify ways of empowering the youth, to promote a culture of volunteerism among the youth, to explore and suggest ways of engaging the youth in the economic development process, to identify constraints that hinder the Kenyan Youth from realizing their potential to propose ways of mentoring the youth to be just and morally upright citizens and to promote honest hard work and productivity among the youth. The policy defines the obligations of the youth, adults and parents, the State (lead implementer of the policy and guarantor of youth rights), and the private sector. The policy elaborates eight priority strategic areas which include; employment creation, health, education and training, sports and recreation, the environment, art and culture, youth and the media, and youth empowerment and participation in national life. As one means of implementation of the policy, the Government has created a **National Youth Council** which is now under discussion in Parliament. Its mandate is to coordinate youth organizations and develop an integrated national youth development plan in collaboration with the Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports. It is to act as an advisory research and policy institution on youth affairs in Kenya. The National Youth Policy provides an excellent framework for youth program development.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): The DRC's national policy on youth is framed within the country's Constitution which defines the roles of the different National Ministries. The focus of the **Ministry for Youth and Sports** is almost exclusively on sport and physical education, and on recreational activities, although it also looks to develop young people's sense of citizenship, as well as promoting professionally oriented activities. There is no mention of violence among youth or preventive approaches.

2.0 Major risk factors for youth violence in the region

An analysis of country studies reveals that within the region a mismatch exists between the aspirations of young people and the opportunities available to them. The majority of youth have high hopes and ambitions. However, a demographic bulge of young people, poor macroeconomic performance, a lack of labor market opportunities, an education system that suffers from problems of access, quality, and relevance, and a society that negates the self-expression of young people means that many young people are unable to translate their aspirations into a productive and fulfilling future. High expectations, disappointing employment and life prospects, and marginalization among young people fuels frustration and desperation resulting into crime and violence. For purposes of this paper, factors predisposing youth to violence are categorized into social, economic and political

2.1 Social risk factors

2.1.1 Community related risk factors.

One of the major factors predisposing youth to violence in the region is the nature of the communities in which young people live. The communities are a source of both risk and protection. The major community related risk factors identified include: diminished economic opportunities, high concentrations of poor residents, high level of family disruption or broken homes(single parenthood, orphanage ,lack of parenting skills and lack of supportive home environments), low levels of community participation, socially disorganized neighbourhoods(alcohol and drug abuse, danger and insecurity) and negative attitudes towards young people. Faced with such challenges, the young people therefore turn to violence as a way of asserting control over their environment.

Poverty: Poverty was cited as a major contributing factor to youth violence in the region. In **Kenya**, gross socioeconomic disparities have impacted heavily on the youth. About 50% of Kenyans live below the poverty line which means that a majority of youth (over 60% of Kenyans are persons below 35 years) have inadequate access to basic needs and services namely, food, water, shelter and clothing as well as educational and health facilities.⁶ These conditions, particularly unemployment are linked to an increase in social ills such as crime, prostitution, alcoholism, and hard drug trafficking and abuse among the young . Nairobi city, for instance, has been hit by a crime wave with gangs, composed mainly of youths, who are ruthless and trained in crime tactics⁷. A majority of the young perpetrators of crimes and violence in major towns in Kenya come from families that are poverty stricken. In **Burundi**, the level of poverty is very high with 67% of the population living under the poverty line (one dollar a day), and the country has much difficulties in improving the economy. This high level of poverty of parents, combined with strong population growth, hampers economic growth and the development of education experienced by young people.⁸ . Burundi Vision 2025 speaks of raising the general standards of education of the population, a level that can spur economic development in order to raise the GDP per capita at \$ 720 in 2025⁹. This requires substantial investments in schooling at all levels, from the household to the Government. The rate of poverty is too high and is therefore a challenge. In **Tanzania**, increased levels of poverty or deteriorating terms of livelihood are central economic factors for youth violence. This sometimes forces parents to withdraw their children or youths from school and place them in various income generating activities or child labour. These include collecting scrap metal, roasting maize, saling maize, or working on farms¹⁰. Lack of money and resources in a family tends to push youth and children away from home. Overall, 17% of the youth in Tanzania are unemployed compared to 12.9% of unemployment in the general labour force.¹¹ Tanzania's 2006 Integrated Labour Force Survey [ILFS], shows that 14.9% of the youth aged between 15 and 24 years, are unemployed, compared to 11.7% of the adult population¹². The **DRC** is a country with very high rates of poverty , unemployment, unequal distribution of natural resources and a very high expansion of corruption. The criminalization and privatization of the state welfare and the plundering of the commonwealth, lead to the hazards of survival, provoked brutal effects on young people,

⁶ Government of Kenya,2009

⁷ Interview with member of the Advisory Board NYC

⁸ REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI « *Vision Burundi 2025* », Bujumbura Avril 2010

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Tanzania Gender & Growth Assessment – TGGA, pg 19

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

who are frustrated and marginalized from money circulation systems. Violence occurs as a reaction to economic exclusion.

Diminished community resources. The effects of community poverty on youth violence are more obvious when considering the mechanisms by which poverty and its associated features can impact violence. Three dimensions of disadvantage are particularly important: resource scarcity, concentrated disadvantage, and danger. For example, many communities in **Kenya**, especially in urban areas lack resources that can be mobilized to promote human development¹³. The degree of concentration of disadvantage in poor, urban settings is a key feature in understanding the development of adaptive strategies to disadvantage, particularly the rise of alternative means to surviving in an austere and potentially hostile environment. Concentration and poverty too often exacerbate the perception among youths that they are marginalized from the broader society¹⁴. Thus, it is the combination of resource scarcity with intense concentration that must be considered in understanding patterns of violence among the youth. The scenario is not any different in **Tanzania**¹⁵ and **Burundi**¹⁶ where increased population growth, mass migration of youth into urban areas and raging poverty continue to make youth feel disadvantaged and marginalized

High level of family disruption: Families in the region are facing a lot of challenges. In essence the family is collapsing as a key socialisation agent due to a number of causal factors such as poverty, the feminisation of poverty, the phenomenon of teenage pregnancies, single parenthood, HIV and AIDS and general social change. For example, in **Kenya** domestic violence is one of the more pressing problems facing poor, urban residents, especially in major towns.¹⁷ In **Tanzania** the phenomenon of single parenthood was identified as a factor that places, especially female youths, at risk. Besides being unable to hold a job, most single youths who are mothers have no one to assist in caring for their toddlers. Most single mothers end up with multiple partners and succumb to disease, HIV infections, and poor reproductive health¹⁸. Youths and children whose fathers are absent in the long term from home, commonly play truant or drop out of school. Stepmothers or conflict between wives, are another factor or reason why many families break up, due to physical violence and verbal abuse. In such situations, a few women end up assuming male habits and attitudes of aggression towards children. Alcohol abuse is a strong social factor in triggering domestic violence, and neglect of children by parents is one of the main consequences. In **Burundi**, irresponsibility of families and hunger are considered as the factors of that lead to youth violence. This has been worsened by breakdown of families, political crisis and the scourge of AIDS. For example, in 2006, Burundi had 835 000 orphans in the 3-19 years old¹⁹ group. War in the **DRC** has led to a lot of family disruption, creating a large pool of vulnerable young persons who are easily drawn into violent activities

Insecure neighborhoods: Neighborhoods characterized by danger and insecurity, poor physical infrastructure drug and substance abuse and other forms of vice are a breeding ground for violent youth. Danger is an important dimension of disadvantage that can be used to understand youth violence. In poor communities such as the slums in **Kenya**, characterized by muggings, rape and drug abuse,

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Rethinking MEMKWA to Meet the Needs of Tanzania's Vulnerable Children and Youth"
Position Paper by Mkombozi Center, pg 2

¹⁶ MINISTERE DE LA JEUNESSE , DES SPORTS ET DE LA CULTURE : « *Politique sectorielle, période 2006-2010* », Bujumbura, mai 2006

¹⁷ Interview with Programs director KCDF

¹⁸ Young People's Possibilities for Influence in Tanzania, pg 10

¹⁹ CARE/CRS : « *Problématique de la scolarisation des Orphelins et Autres Enfants Vulnérables* », Bujumbura, août 2008. Etude réalisée par Prof. Ndayisaba Joseph.

insecurity plays a significant role in shaping the day-to-day cultural beliefs and practices within community members²⁰ Participation in dangerous life situations heightens the risk of violent posturing and violent behavior. Such settings also increase levels of fear and create a need for responses that help youth manage these fears. The youth join gangs to feel secure, but end up being victims or perpetrators of violence. In **Tanzania**, some youth in urban areas are increasingly faced many challenges in environments which are also characterized by other vices such as alcohol and drug abuse

Negative attitudes towards the youth: Negative attitudes towards young people make them feel marginalize. In **Tanzania** for example, it appears that, in most communities, youth are viewed as problems to be solved and or trouble makers to be fixed, rather than a group that needs to be cherished, valued and strengthened so as to improve their chances to manage the present as well as the future. It is undisputed that social marginalization of youth induces them into becoming “apathetic, frustrated, and demoralized, which in turn ruins their self-confidence and eventually suppresses their contribution to the community”²¹ In **Kenya**, young people feel alienated from participating in activities in their communities. The youth are often referred to as the “leaders of tomorrow”, a situation they feel marginalizes them²². A recent study showed that the negative attitudes towards young people in Kenya fuels violence.²³

Opportunities for leisure and recreation: The youth possess a lot of energy and thus require facilities where they can use their energy positively. One of the ways to spend this energy is through sports and recreation. However there lacks sufficient investment in sporting facilities that would ensure the youth optimally participate in sports and recreation. In **Kenya** for example, crime among the youth in informal settlements has partly been blamed on lack of opportunities for sports and recreation. Mathare Youth Sports Association was founded as a way of engaging the youth and minimizing violence and crime.²⁴ Anecdotal evidence shows that in both rural and urban areas in Kenya where the youth lack recreational and leisure opportunities, the number of cases of crime and violence among the youth is high²⁵. The creation of sporting and other leisure opportunities for the youth will go a long way in reducing youth violence.

2.1.2 Education System

An analysis of the education system in the region reveals multiple problems in terms of equity (do you mean equality?) in the access to education and quality education which poses a risk for youth violence. The major problems related to the education system include lack of access to education, inequity in access, the unsuitability of education to the job market, lack of technical skills, poor organization of educational institutions and exposure to violence within the learning institutions.

Access to education: in **Kenya**, although primary education is free access for many poor parents it is still problematic due to the high hidden costs. There are also geographical and cultural inhibitions in terms of access. Additionally, Poverty especially in urban areas limits access. The last post-election violences created a large pool of youth, some of whom are currently not in school²⁶ In **Burundi**; the percentage of children in full time education is low. For example, only 46% complete primary school,

²⁰ Ruteere,2006

²¹ “Rethinking MEMKWA to Meet the Needs of Tanzania’s Vulnerable Children and Youth”

Position Paper by Mkombozi Center, pg 2

²² Nairobi Peace Institute(NPI,2009)

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Interview with member of the Advisory Board, Youth Congress, Kenya

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Nairobi Peace Initiative, 2009

19% end complete junior high school, whereas only 12% complete the second part of secondary school. During the 1993 crisis many youths who were recruited by armed groups abandoned schooling. Education infrastructure was also destroyed. This high level of poverty of parents, combined with strong population growth, hampers educational attainment experienced by young people. Every year, the school system produces thousands of young men and women without qualifications, with few possibilities to find jobs. 200 000 children finish primary school every year. About 30 % continue with the secondary school. 70 percent stay down or leave school. 46 percent of children who start primary school terminate the cycle, and only 12 percent finish the secondary level²⁷. In **Tanzania**, only a quarter of adolescents of secondary school-age attend secondary school. More males than females attend secondary school, with youths in urban areas (44%) exceeding those in rural areas (19%). More than a quarter of women in the country have never had any schooling, compared to a fifth of males (18%).²⁸. Those youths who have no access to education cannot compete favorably in the job market. A majority of them resort to crime and violence as a means of survival.

Equity in education: There are glaring inequalities in access to education across socio-economic classes and geographical areas in the three countries. For example in **Kenya**, private schools are very well equipped with well-motivated teachers, followed by national schools, whereas the district schools are poorly equipped and with few teachers. This situation creates a lot of frustration among those who go to poor public schools and feel that they cannot compete favourably with those in better private schools. Young people in communities with low literacy levels also have a high propensity for violence. In Kenya, the persistence of armed gangs and cattle rustling in some communities is partly attributed to lack of education.²⁹ In **Tanzania**, wealth disparities have a bearing on women's education due to the fact that 7% of females in wealthy households compared to 46% of those in poor households have never attended school. Males are less affected by wealth disparities³⁰. More children in urban areas (88%) attend primary school compared to those in rural areas (78%). Children from wealthier households (90%) are more likely to attend primary school than those from poorer households (68%)³¹.

Quality of education: One of the major factors contributing to unemployment and consequent violent behavior of youth in the region is the quality of education. In **Kenya**, for example, critics argue that the curriculum is not suited to the needs of the learners or linked to the labor market, which contributes to growing unemployment.³² The problem of unemployed educated youth in Third World countries like Kenya is partly caused by the inappropriate education system³³. The education system in Kenya has been blamed for its failure to impart technical skills to the youth. It is further blamed for encouraging the youth to have unrealistic aspirations that drive them to search exclusively for white collar jobs that match their education level³⁴. The case is the same in **Burundi**, where those completing primary and secondary schools do not have the necessary qualifications required in the job market. Due to their lack of technical skills, the unemployed youth, resort to survival strategies which include crime.

Poor organisation of learning institutions: In **Kenya** the characteristics of both the school organization and specific teacher practices have been shown to increase risk for young peoples' aggression or promote positive behavior. Youth violence in learning institutions in Kenya has partly been

²⁷ CHAIRE UNESCO/CERFOPAX : « *Etude Nationale sur les Violences Faites aux Femmes et aux Filles en Période de Conflit* », Bujumbura, Université du Burundi, novembre 2009. Etude menée pour le compte de l'UNIFEM.

²⁸ 2010 Tanzania Health and Demographic Survey,

²⁹ Ruteere, 2009; USAID, 2009; NPI, 2009

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid

³² Government of Kenya, Central Bureau of Statistics 1999

³³ The World Bank, 2005

³⁴ NPI, 2009

blamed on the organization of schools, colleges and universities³⁵ For instance, positive student behavior is more likely in schools that encourage student involvement in decision making, focus on excellence, have high quality leadership, and provide clear formal and informal behavior codes that are consistently enforced. In **Burundi**, civil strife has contributed to the disorganization of the schooling environment³⁶ In **Tanzania**, weak and/or misguided collaboration between parents and other stakeholders in supporting youth to achieve progress in their academic, economic and social life endeavors causes some youth to drop out of school and levitate towards social and economic vices. Most schools are poorly prepared to determine how to assist youths who are having problems in school. Instead the recourse is seeking for voluntary response from various stakeholders. For instance most teachers are unable to determine or detect that difficult behavior by youth might be a sign of parental conflicts, physical, verbal or sexual abuse at home.³⁷

Schools and violence against girls: Compared to boys, girls in learning institutions in the region are more likely to experience physical and sexual violence. In **Tanzania** for example, young women who are not married yet encounter physical violence mainly from teachers (35%), mothers and step mothers (20%), and siblings (19%). Current husbands and partners are responsible for 69.5% of the violence, while former husbands and partners answer for 24.5%. A study carried out in **Burundi** in 2010 showed that female students are exposed to sexual violence³⁸. This report is similar to what is carried out by the Ministry of Human Rights in 2002 on sexual abuse in schools. The report noted many cases of rape and sexual relations committed by teachers, soldiers, policemen and rebels to school girls. In **Kenya**, teachers are reportedly among the main perpetrators of both physical and sexual abuse against female students.³⁹

2.1.3 Accessibility to weapons

There is convincing evidence that the availability of guns can turn a violent situation lethal.⁴⁰ The ease with which young people can access firearms has been associated with youth violence. In **Kenya**, easy accessibility and availability of fire arms, their relative cheapness and ease of use are factors for young people committing violence. Small arms are widespread among pastoralist communities where police are rare and cattle theft and inter-communal conflict is common⁴¹. Efforts at disarmament have not been very successful with communities accusing police failure to protect them and justifying the need for guns for self- protection. An Amnesty International report shows how Kenya is one of the countries that has failed to control movement of weapons leading to serious human rights violations⁴². Murders, violent robberies at gun point and carjacking are common in Nairobi and other major towns⁴³. Current studies indicate that violent crimes such as armed robbery, murder, engage in crime to acquire basic needs. Criminal youth gangs are increasingly becoming a growing phenomenon in the city. The largest proportion of crime in

³⁵ Ruto,2009;NPI,2009

³⁶ ³⁶ CARE/CRS : « Problématique de la scolarisation des Orphelins et Autres Enfants Vulnérables », Bujumbura, août 2008. Etude réalisée par Prof. Ndayisaba Joseph.

³⁷ "Rethinking MEMKWA to Meet the Needs of Tanzania's Vulnerable Children and Youth"

Position Paper by Mkombozi Center, pg 2

³⁸ CHAIRE UNESCO/CERFOPAX : « *Etude Nationale sur les Violences Faites aux Femmes et aux Filles en Période de Conflit* », Bujumbura, Université du Burundi, novembre 2009. Etude menée pour le compte de l'UNIFEM.

³⁹ Center For the Study of Adolescents, 2004

⁴⁰ Hardwick and Rowton-Lee 1996

⁴¹ IRIN,2010

⁴² Amnesty International 2010

Kenya is committed by youths, and over 50 per cent of convicted prisoners in the country are aged between 16 and 25 years⁴⁴. In **Burundi**, and **DRC** the political conflict has meant that young people have access to arms. The access to arms heightens militant ant behaviour among the youth and increases crime.

2.1.4 Cultural and social norms

Cultural and social norms are highly influential in shaping individual behaviour, including the use of violence. Norms can protect against violence, but they can also support and encourage the use of it. Cultural acceptance of violence, either as a normal method of resolving conflict or as a usual part of rearing a child, is a risk factor for all types of interpersonal violence. Social tolerance of violent behaviour is likely learned in childhood, through the use of corporal punishment or witnessing violence in the family in the media or in other settings⁴⁵. There are many different ways in which cultural and social norms support different types of violence. The most common in the region is gender discrimination.⁴⁶

For instance, in **Kenya**, traditional beliefs among some communities hold that men have a right to control or discipline women through physical means, this makes women vulnerable to violence by intimate partners and places women and girls at risk of physical and sexual abuse. Furthermore, adherence to harmful traditional practices such as genital mutilation, early/forced marriages, low value of female children, men's right to assert power over and discipline women, the belief that sex is a man's right in marriage and that sexual activity is a marker of masculinity, the idea that women are the property of men due to dowry payment, among others are all cultural practices in Kenya that may lead to different types of violence⁴⁷. A report by World Vision which looks into violence among young pastoralists in Northern Kenya, particularly in relation to cattle rustling, identifies specific traditional practices as factors enabling violence. In the report it is claimed that young people follow the advice of their elders, and consequently traditionally steal cows to increase their wealth and secure a bride price or dowry. Some studies in Kenya have also shown that the patriarchal nature of society expects men to be the bread winners. With increasing poverty, young men resort to crime and violence as a means of meeting this cultural expectation. Young men feel completely inadequate if they cannot take care of their families. This explains partly the increasing cases of violence among young men in Kenya⁴⁸.

In **Tanzania**, youth is supposedly partly evolving, and partly still bound by the "culture of silence". Tanzania being a patriarchal dominated society, the opinions and views of most youths are usually undervalued in their families, and the youths themselves are viewed as ineligible for participation in decision making in or outside the home, as well as in the political processes. Gender norms and values also tend to support some forms of domestic violence. According to the 2010 Tanzania Health and Demographic Survey, "*gender based violence occurs in all socio economic and cultural backgrounds*"⁴⁹. The socialization of women includes nurturing women and girls into accepting, tolerating and rationalizing domestic violence. This includes them being silent when violence occurs to them or around them.

In the **DRC**, some cultural and social beliefs and ideologies promote violent behaviour as tolerable, these include ancestralism, hegemonic masculinity, and witchcraft beliefs. For example, according to the

⁴⁴ USAID, 2009

⁴⁵ WHO, 2009

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ Ruto, 2009

⁴⁹ Ministry of Home Affairs, Tanzania Police Force, "Taarifa Ya Uhalifu 2009",

dominant ideology of ancestralism, old people are considered as those disposing of sagacity, social initiative and the decision-makers on land and community affairs. Young people have difficulty accessing to land and to self-reliance in rural areas and are inclined to migrate into towns, in order to avoid the harassment and burden of traditions

2.2 Economic Risk Factors

2.2.1 Unemployment and underemployment

Youth Unemployment and underemployment: The young people of the Great Lakes region face challenges when seeking employment. The opportunities for employment are inadequate for the youth who graduate into the job-market. The environment for self-employment is not youth friendly as the resources are not sufficient to develop entrepreneurial skills among young people, and facilitate their entry into business, particularly in remote areas. Even where opportunities exist, youth face various challenges including not receiving equal pay for equal work and being exposed to hazardous working environments. Internships, placements and apprenticeship programs are not formally in place to ensure that the youth can develop and sharpen their skills. Youth have various talents in art, craftsmanship, sports. However these talents are not promoted as they ought to.

Unemployment and underemployment are cited as the major economic reasons of why young people engage in violence. In **Kenya**, the economic growth rate has been insufficient to create enough employment opportunities to absorb the increasing labour force of about 750,000 annually. Only about 25% of youth are absorbed, leaving 75% to bear the burden of unemployment. Additionally, some of those absorbed in the labour market have jobs that do not match their qualifications and personal development goals which may lead to frustrations and disappointment⁵⁰. In **Burundi**, according to the 2008 census, the unemployment rate of youths who had completed university studies was 13%. The pressure on available land is very high, meaning that the uneducated youth cannot be gainfully employed in agriculture. Such unemployed youth may be taken advantage of by political leaders leading them to engaging in violent acts. In **Tanzania**, the “consequences of lacking livelihood and employment opportunities for the youth are increasing rates of youth who migrate out of rural areas, increasing the number of young criminals and prostitutes, and increasing drug abuse and HIV and AIDS infections.⁵¹ Among factors making youth at risk are structural changes in the local economies in most areas⁵². For instance, parents in the Kilimanjaro region increasingly complain that the huge deterioration of coffee prices means that they can no longer afford keeping their children in school⁵³.

2.2.2 Unequal distribution of/access to resources

In **Kenya** the problem of unequal access to resources is a major contributor to youth violence. For example, in the Central Province of Kenya, many young people have been persuaded to join the dreaded *Mungiki* gang who claim to fight for the rights to own land, arguing that most of the land is in the hands of a

⁵⁰ Interview with a professor of sociology, University of Nairobi

⁵¹ Tanzania Gender & Growth Assessment – TGGGA, pg 19

⁵³ Ibid

few rich individuals who did not participate meaningfully in the liberation of the country from colonialism⁵⁴. The majority of those who join the gang are children of poor peasants. In the coastal region, a militant group called the Mombasa Republican Army, consisting of young people recently staged an uprising. Their main grievances are associated with landlessness among coastal communities, most of whom are still squatters many years after independence. They also claim that people from other regions of the country are benefit more from the port of Mombasa than coastal communities.⁵⁵ The post -election violence of 2007/8, in which youth played a major role was also partly associated with a feeling that there was unequal access to land in the Rift Valley Province. Politicians reportedly incited youth in the Province to rise up in arms against those perceived to have migrated from other parts of the country into the province.⁵⁶

2.3 Political risk factors

2.3.1 Corruption and poor governance

For many years, corruption has been a major social problem in **Kenya**. It impacts negatively on economic growth, encourages police harassment of youths, limits education and job opportunities for those who refuse to pay bribes, and negatively affects service delivery.⁵⁷ These are important factors for violence. Social inequalities caused by corruption in part led to Kenya's 2007/2008 post-election violence⁵⁸. Some research in Kenya shows that many unemployed and frustrated youth blame corruption and poor governance for their predicament. There is general discontent among the youth over the continued corruption in high office and the failures of the police and justice system to make those in power accountable,⁵⁹ (I don't understand what this last phrase means..).

2.3.2 Use of youth in political mobilization and violence

In **Burundi** the involvement of youth in armed conflict has been high since independence. During the 1993 crisis in particular, the Hutu youths from the FRODEPU party were reported to be the main perpetrators of genocide. As a reprisal, especially in the capital, the young Tutsis organized themselves in armed bands and killed the Hutu and destroyed their houses. During the 2010 elections, youth involvement in violence before and during the elections was noticed. The NGO Human Rights Watch show that many cases of violence were committed by the youth from CNDD-FDD and FNL in the capital and in many rural areas during and after elections of 2010. During the election campaigns, competition between the parties revived the tension between militants. Many parties recruited young former fighters after the peace agreements between Government, CNDD-FDD and FNL. **Tanzania** has not experienced a lot of political violence as seen in the other neighboring countries. However, popular youth culture is sometimes seen by adults as the scapegoat for misbehavior or deviant forms of expressions by the youths. Few adults understand the global view of the youth, and even fewer have the right skills to manage this misbehavior. For the large part, most youths have viewed political activities as an avenue or channel to acquire easy gifts in exchange of favors and votes. For example, during election periods the youth may be used in violent demonstrations. In Kenya, politicians sometimes incite youth into violence for their own political interests. The worst of such violence was witnessed during the post-election violence of

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ Interview with Programs Director, KCDF

⁵⁶ The Waki Report on Post Election Violence in Kenya, 2008

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ USAID, 2009

⁵⁹ The Waki Report on Post Election Violence in Kenya, 2008

2008/2009⁶⁰ In the **DRC**, youths who are members of political parties and youths active on the street may be subjects of political mobilization. They may give a special vitality to political meetings and therefore could be used to threaten political adversaries in competition. In cases of ethnic confrontation on the basis of competition for natural resources, land and access to power, youth may give a special energy to defend the ethnic interests⁶¹.

2.3.3 Lack of youth participation in democratic processes

Undemocratic leadership, especially if it is repressive and if power stems from ethnic identity is a powerful contributor to violence⁶². Political and economic powers, if exercised according to ethnic identity undoubtedly lead to corruption and marginalization of groups which may lead to violent and criminal behaviour. In **Kenya**, despite the need for political parties to play a strong role in moving the country forward in the reform process, the parties continue to lack the necessary structures and influence to do so. Political parties have historically been patriarchal in nature, reducing the opportunity for constructive participation by key constituent groups such as women and youth in the political process. Although their total number in parliament increased, women and youth continue to be largely underrepresented in Kenyan politics. Women and youth leaders seeking to become politically active and assume leadership roles have been marginalized and have found difficulties in taking an active role in the parties' decision making structures and procedures.⁶³ Women and youth are typically relegated to women and youth wings that lack structured party support. In 2008, the Political Parties Act was passed. The law requires the constitutions of political parties to list the party's practices with respect to gender, nomination procedures, and human rights in order to receive government funding. Despite the new law many Parties face challenges implementing the necessary internal reforms and streamlining their procedures to ensure youth participation⁶⁴. Recognizing the relationship between political power and the distribution of the country's resources, Kenyan youth have always viewed the political process as an effective way of addressing their needs, which is why they have continued their struggle to secure political participation.⁶⁵ A recent study conducted in Kenya shows that many youth blame poverty, unemployment and lack of access to the country's resources on lack of political participation. Still, others attribute political violence perpetrated by youth to the lack of participation in the democratic process.⁶⁶ In **Burundi**, the study shows how youth are coping with the harsh realities of a post-conflict environment, in a country that suffered a genocide similar to the one in neighboring Rwanda. The findings of this study present anecdotal evidence on how social and economic dynamics combined with poverty could increase marginalization of youth in the democratic process and the risk for the country to relapse into conflict. In **Tanzania**, only a minority of youth wield their right to vote and contest in local and national elections in Tanzania. A contributing factor is that youth, as a consequence of the current political culture, are not provided space to legitimately claim their rights and entitlements. Moreover, patronage, unfair political recruitment and ignorance prevent many youths from entering the political realm. Most youth are therefore only used by politicians for campaign purposes. As in other African countries, the young majority in Tanzania has found itself in a situation of subordination vis-à-vis the political establishment which predominantly consists of members of the elder generation.

⁶⁰ The Waki Report on Post-Election Violence In Kenya, 2008

⁶¹ Mbemb e 1987)

⁶² Imoite, 2007

⁶³ Interview with Board Member NYC

⁶⁴ Imoite, 2007)

⁶⁵ USAID, 2009

⁶⁶ Nairobi Peace Initiative, 2009

Widespread lack of opportunities for political participation of the younger generation has characterized the post-colonial period⁶⁷

2.3.4 Perceived hostility from the state

A study conducted by the Nairobi Peace Institute⁶⁸ revealed that many young people in urban areas in Kenya perceived the state, through its agents such as the police, to be very hostile to them. The problem of harassment of innocent youth by Kenyan authorities (police and city council *askaris*) is not new. A World Bank (2005) study found that while many of those involved in crime are young, only a minority of youths are criminals. However, young people – especially those who live in the slums – felt that they were often harassed by the police, with many of them reporting being singled out by police and suffering from random arrests under the pretext of “security-enforcing operations” that target activities of illegal gangs. Such operations, where innocent youth are arrested and terrorized by security forces are reportedly still very common. This perceived harassment of youths by government security agencies makes them feel marginalized and alienated from the State⁶⁹. With slight (political) provocation, such youth often easily turned against the State violently. Indeed, the Waki report on post-election violence of 2007/2008 stated that one of the reasons why the youth took a central⁷⁰ role in violent acts, was the perceived hostility of the state towards them

2.4 Gendered Analysis of risk factors related to youth violence in the region.

Gender is important in understanding and dealing with youth violence. It refers to the array of socially constructed roles, traits, attitudes, behaviors, values, responsibilities, relative power, status and influence ascribed to male and female humans on a differential basis. Gender identities condition the way human beings are perceived, and how they are expected to think and act and also a basic organizing principle for relationships, institutions, cultures, and for the distribution of resources (including wealth, status and power) in human societies. A fundamental cross-cultural reality, both historically and in the present, has been the socially sanctioned use of violence, among other practices, as a means of social control to preserve male dominance. Despite considerable and continuing social change, gender remains the overriding context for many kinds of violence in the Great Lakes Region. A gender analysis of youth violence in the region reveals the following;

- Young men, as opposed to women, are the main perpetrators of violence. In most of the cases, young women are the victims.
- Young women, compared to men, are more likely to be uneducated or have little education, hence limiting their opportunities for decent livelihood consequently resorting to crime and violence.
- Gender norms tend to support male dominance over women, a situation that has been observed to fuel domestic violence and violence against girls in schools and other settings.

⁶⁷ Birgit Englert (2008) Ambiguous Relationships: Youth, Popular Music and Politics in contemporary Tanzania. Stichproben. Wiener Zeitschrift für kritische Afrikastudien Nr. 14/2008, 8. Jg., 71-96

⁶⁸ Nairobi Peace Initiative, 2009.

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Waki Report on Post-Election Violence in Kenya, 2008

- In situations of armed conflict rape of women is very common
- Patriarchy and cultural expectations of men as bread winners in the family continue to exert a lot of pressure on young men to conform, leading to frustration and ultimately violence.
- Gender norms in most communities encourage male sexual dominance and women's permissiveness. This has been seen to explain some types of sexual violence including rape.
- Some retrogressive practices such as forced early marriage, Female Genital Mutilation are rife in some communities. Such practices, apart from being forms of violence against women, continue to limit their opportunities in life
- Structural changes in terms of girls' education and the participation of women in the economy are a challenge to the traditional norms that support male dominance over women. This situation leads to vulnerability and frustration among some young people hence violence. Socio-economic change has undermined the social value, identity and self-esteem of men, leading to their 'disempowerment'.
- In cases of armed conflict, young men are more likely to be combatants because in most communities they are culturally expected to secure their families. This has made it easy for young men to be lured into armed conflict in the pretext of defending their communities.

The above analysis shows that dealing with youth violence not only requires empowering young women, but men as well.

3.0 Programmes and Main Working Areas in the Great Lakes Region

Countries in the great lakes region have implemented different programmes focusing on different aspects of youth empowerment and development. The Majority of programmes seem to focus on livelihood, entrepreneurial development or youth business promotion which is important for violence prevention. In all countries, international organizations and agencies have played a major role in initiating or supporting youth related programmes. These include UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNEP, USAID, FHI, ILO, UNICEF, and UNESCO among others. ***UNESCO's Regional Programme of Education for Emergencies and Reconstruction (PEER)*** project is being implemented in the region. It has been mandated to promote the Culture of Peace in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. In this respect, PEER is implementing a project with the title *Conflict Prevention and Peace Building networks for the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa*.

The objective of this project is to contribute to the reinforcement of a network of active non-governmental organizations in conflict prevention and resolution, and in peace building. More specifically, the project aims to enhance the capacity of NGOs active in peace building to anticipate, manage and resolve conflicts in peaceful, non-violent ways and to sustain peace. It also seeks to strengthen local NGOs' resource base for conflict management, promote a culture of peace in development, and establish effective mechanisms for information sharing and networking.

The following section gives an analysis of existing youth programmes, their area of intervention and implementers or supporters of the organizations.

3.1 Livelihood/Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Training

There are numerous programmes on economic empowerment implemented in all countries. The focus on livelihood programmes could be due to the recognition that the majority of youth engage in violence and immoral behavior due to idleness and lack of meaningful engagement. Of all the countries, **Kenya** seems to have the most programmes focusing on livelihood promotion. This may have been prompted by the post-election violence of 2007-2008, where the perpetrators were largely unemployed youth. In fact, most of the programmes were initiated after the election crisis. The table below gives a summary of some of the interventions focusing on youth economic empowerment in the Great Lakes Region:

Table 1: Livelihoods/Economic Empowerment interventions

Country	Programmes/Projects	Actor
Tanzania	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tanzania Youth Enterprise Facility: Youth-to-youth Fund 2. Kilimo Kwanza 3. Youth Loan Fund (Zanzibar). 4. Women Entrepreneurs Development Trust Fund (WEDTF) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government, ILO, African Commission,- Youth Employment Network (YEN) 2. Government 3. Ministry of Social Welfare, Youth, Women and Children Development, CRDB Bank 4. Government
Kenya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV) 2. Youth Enterprise Development Fund 3. Livelihood Recovery Project 4. Women Enterprise Fund 5. Youth unemployment 6. Other Projects: fish farming, rabbit rearing, dairy goat keeping, bee-keeping (Central Province); Formation of youth SACCOs; Rehabilitation and staffing of youth polytechnics all over the country; Establishment of youth entrepreneur clubs in some primary and secondary schools in the country; Trees for Job planting in some Districts in the country; Creation of youth empowerment centers; Training on micro-enterprise in partnership with UNDP; Conducting Career fairs in some districts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government, World Bank 2. Government 3. UNDP 4. Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development 5. Kenya Youth Business Trust 6. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MOYAS)
Burundi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash for work 2. Youth employment, vocational training 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNFPA 2. Government, ILO, Youth Employment Network(YEN) 3. Employment Intensive Programme (EIIP)
DRC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth employment, vocational training 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. ILO, Youth Employment

		Network(YEN) 5. Employment Intensive Programme (EIP)
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As shown in the table, governments in the region have shown an increased engagement with youth. For example, the creation of specific ministries for youth affairs to address the concerns of youth is one such laudable effort. One of the major programmes by governments in both **Kenya** and **Tanzania** is the **Youth Enterprise Fund/facility**, an initiative to address the unemployment rate among the youth. The concept is based on the premise that micro, small, and medium enterprise development initiatives are likely to have the biggest impact on job creation. The initiative however, faces many challenges including non-repayment of the fund, low up-take, political interference, misappropriation and lack of youth representation in decision-making. In Kenya the ***Kazi kwa Vijana*** programme supported by the World Bank and the Prime Minister’s office is also one of the main youth empowerment projects implemented by the government. The programme aims to reduce the vulnerability of unemployed young women and men through providing temporary employment in labor-intensive projects that provide income opportunities to participating youth, and at the same time, enhance the communities’ access to social and economic infrastructure. The target group of the component is unemployed youth in the 18-35 age brackets. Activities under this programme include building water dams and irrigation, repairing borehole and access roads, clearing bushes, planting trees, operating water kiosks, developing and implementing waste management systems. The **Cash-for-Work** programme used by various organizations such as UNFPA, UNICEF, and Oxfam in **Burundi** works in a similar way to the *Kazi kwa Vijana*.

Kenya and **Tanzania** have initiated specific funds to economically empower women: the **Women Entrepreneurs Development Trust Fund** in Tanzania and **Women Enterprise Fund** in Kenya under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development are examples of such programmes. The women funds’ mission is to mobilize resources and offer access to affordable credit and business support services to women entrepreneurs. Other programmes by NGOs focusing on youth unemployment include those by **Kenya Youth Business Trust** to assist young entrepreneurs.

3.2 Peace Building and Violence Prevention

At the regional level, UN-Habitat implements the **Safer Cities** programme in the Great Lakes region. The programme was initiated due to the rise in crime in urban areas and is aimed at reducing and preventing crime. UN-Habitat provides technical assistance to city councils and municipalities in formulation of crime prevention strategies, awareness and sensitization campaigns on crime reduction.

Nationally, it is evident through the number of programmes that a majority of programmes on peace building, reconciliation and violence prevention were implemented in **Burundi** following the 1993 genocide. Shortly after the genocide, the **Search for Common Ground (SFCG)**, an international NGO, launched a series of media and community projects in the country. SFCG has sought to strengthen the capacities of all segments of Burundian society to manage their conflicts collaboratively, promote dialogue between diverse groups, and facilitate coexistence and reconciliation. Their goal is to promote inclusive, effective and responsible participation in a process of social transformation toward a fair and equal society through three main program areas: reintegration, governance and transitional justice. Other organizations focusing on peace building in Burundi are the **Kamenge Youth Center** that uses sports and other cultural activities to preach peace, and the **JAMAA Association** whose activities include

reconciliation between divided groups of youths ; capacity building programs; community works and debates aim to combat ethnic division and consolidate peace.

The following table shows some of the interventions in the area of peace building;

Table 2: Peace Building Interventions

Country	Programmes/projects	Actor
Tanzania	1.. safer Cities programme	UN-Habitat
Kenya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tuelewane Youth Exchange programme 2. Organizing and supporting peace caravans 3. Safer Cities Programme 4. Conflict resolution and peace building (People for people project) 5. District Peace Committees 6. Peace through community reconciliation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNDP/MOYAS 2.MOYAS 3.UN-Habitat 4. catholic Justice and Peace Commission 5. Government-Ministry of Internal Security 6. International Organization for Migration
Burundi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of apostles of Peace 2. Conflict-resolution 3. Peace and Reconciliation –Kamenge Youth Center 4. Prevention of Violence JAMAA Association 5. Safer Cities Programme 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNESCO 2. Search For Common Ground 5.UN-Habitat
DRC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women empowerment and fighting violence against women 2. Training activities promoting fight against gender based violence 3. Support to demobilization of child soldiers and adult combatants with their families (DRC) 4. Risk and Disaster Management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.UNFPA 2.UNFPA 3.WPF 4.UN-Habitat

As in Burundi, in **Kenya** efforts towards violence prevention picked up after the post-election violence with the intensification of the “**Tuelewane**” (Kiswahili term meaning, ‘let us understand one another’) Youth Exchange programme initiated by the Government of Kenya in partnership with UNDP-Kenya, in response to the realization that Kenya was on the brink of ethnic fallout as observed through the negative messaging that contributed to the post- election crisis. The programme organizes youth visits to other communities where they engage in dialogue with older members of these communities in an attempt to broaden their world views, promote diversity, inculcate tolerance and promote the acquisition of technical and life skills. Notable is also the work of the **Catholic Justice and Peace Commission** whose peace and justice work intensified with the post-election violence , they initiated several projects especially within the worst regions in the Rift valley. One of their programmes is the ‘People-to-people’ project in Kuresoi. This programme aims at promoting dialogue and reconciliation among the different groups in the region, thus encouraging renewed relationships and commitment to sustainable peace.

Tanzania has enjoyed a relatively stable political environment compared to the other countries in the Great lakes region, a reason for the limited number of youth-specific programmes focusing on youth violence. The most notable one is the UN-Habitat urban crime prevention safer cities programme.

3.3 Health and wellness

Programmes focusing on health issues such as HIV and AIDS and reproductive health, harmful traditional practices such female genital mutilation, early marriages and gender/domestic violence. Most of these programmes are implemented by **UN-agencies** including, UNFPA, UNICEF and **international organizations** such as **AMREF, PATH, FHI, Population Council**, among others. Nonetheless, the agencies implement projects in close partnership with host governments. The table below gives some of the health initiatives in the region.

Table 3: Health and Wellness Interventions

Country	Programmes/ Projects	Actor
Tanzania	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> FEMA clubs (by FEMINA Hip): HIV and AIDS mitigation and prevention, provision of reproductive health information 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forum Syd, Save the Children, TACAIDS, UMATI, Tanzania Red Cross, Foundation for Civil Society, Family Health International UNICEF, AMREF
Kenya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Youth and adolescents programmes on Reproductive Health, Lefeskills UNICEF manages several programs but most target children and recently the youth. Sensitization of retrogressive practices such as Female genital mutilation and early marriage and sexual exploitation; HIV and AIDS training; Forums on drugs; Training youth leaders on drug and substance abuse 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UNFPA, FHI, Ministry of Health, Population Council, PATH, Pathfinder, among others UNICEF MOYAS
Burundi		
DRC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual Reproductive health HIV and AIDS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UNIFEM UNICEF

Health programmes focus on both in and out-of-school youth. In schools, they mainly take the form of health clubs and debates whereas for out-of-school youth, sensitizations, trainings, workshops are the main methods of reaching the youth.

3.4 Governance and Youth Participation

Recognizing the importance of youth participation in national decision-making processes, governments in the region have established structures to ensure youth inclusiveness. Kenya seems to have a majority of governance and participation programmes initiated by local and international civil society organizations, UN agencies and foreign embassies such as the American Embassy. Some programmes, especially in **Kenya** are geared towards the emergence of an alternative political leadership and are targeted at training youth on engagement in national political processes. USAID-Kenya supported **Yes Youth Can** programme which trains youth in leadership skills. In **Tanzania** programmes such as the **Youth Leadership Training Programme** trains young leaders to promote good governance and development.

Table 4: Governance and Youth Participation

Country	Programmes/ Projects	Actor
Tanzania	Youth Leadership Training Programme	Friedrich Ebert Foundation
Kenya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Democratic Governance 2. Yes Youth can 3. Establishment of the Kenya National Youth Policy; Establishment of the National Youth Council; Organizing of the elections; Civic education; Promoting establishment of youth groups; Conducting youth leadership clinics 4. Human Rights, Democracy and Governance 5. Governance and Justice 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.UNIFEM 2. USAID 3.MOYAS 4. Youth Alive! 5. Youth Congress
Burundi		
DRC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Political participation of women and girls 2. Research on Socio-cultural aspects of violence 3. Establishment of youth policy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.UNWOMEN 2.UNWOMEN 3.MOYAS

3.5 Sports and Arts

There is an increasing appeal by UNESCO and other organizations to employ sports in violence prevention. Governments and other actors are now encouraged to explore the potential of sports in violence reduction and prevention at a national level. All countries in the Great Lakes Region have a Sports Department and national sports policy that should guide in the formulation and implementation of sports programs that foster peace.

In **Kenya**, most of the existing efforts in sports-for-peace are organized at community level and supported by organizations or foundations such as the **Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation** established in 2003 by Tegla Loroupe, a famous Kenyan international athlete. The foundation recognizes sports, mainly athletics, as one of the arsenals for achieving social interaction and cohesiveness between warring communities in the North Rift nomadic communities of Kenya and

Uganda. Sports-for-peace is one of the major ways of building trust amongst groups of youth. Another major and well known sports programme is the **Mathare Youth Sports Association**; a self-help youth programme linking sports with environmental clean-ups, AIDS prevention, leadership training and other community service activities involving approximately twenty thousand young people. It was started in 1987 as a small self-help project to organize sports and environmental clean ups within Mathare slum in Nairobi. The following table shows some sports programmes in the region:

Table 5: Sports and Arts

Country	Programmes/ Projects	Actor
Tanzania	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sports for Development and Peace: 2. Sports in Schools 3. Initiatives to imbue youths with awareness that performing arts are a viable channel for earning a livelihood. Implemented in regions such as Mbeya, Iringa, Dar es Salaam, as well as in Zanzibar. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Information, youth, culture and sports- Sport Development Department 3. Tanzania Art Council
Kenya	<p>Youth engagement in sports and other sport linked activities</p> <p>Athletics for Peace</p>	<p>Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA)</p> <p>Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation</p>
Burundi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Socio-athletic Leadership 2. Rehabilitation of sports infrastructure; Organizing cross-border matches 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sport Sans Frontières 2. Ministry of Youth and sports

Tanzania has programmes such as **sports for development and peace** initiated by the government while in **Burundi**, **Sport sans Frontières** uses physical and sports activities as a tool for peacekeeping and reconstruction of a social fabric in Burundian communities.

3.6 Education

Anecdotal research evidence suggests a positive relationship between the level of education and crime/violence reduction thus implying the need for investment in a good and meaningful education in order to reduce violence amongst youth.

In **Kenya**, in spite of its many challenges, the compulsory **free primary education** supported by various donors such as the British government and the World bank makes the attainment of education by all Kenyan children conceivable and is part of the government's policy of a Universal free primary education. On a smaller scale, **EMACK** is an initiative of the Ministry of Education and the Aga Khan Foundation funded by USAID. It increases opportunities for quality education for primary and lower secondary school children historically marginalized by cultural practices and poverty in the Coast,

North Eastern and Nairobi regions. EMACK focuses on improving learning outcomes and evidence-based school management reforms. The following table shows some of the educational programmes.

Table 6: Education Interventions

Country	Programmes/ Projects	Actor
Tanzania	1. Expansion of primary and secondary schools	Government-Ministry of Education
Kenya	1. Education for Marginalized Children of Kenya (EMACK) 2. School Safe Zones	1. Ministry of Education, Aga Khan Foundation, USAID. 2. Church World Service
Burundi	1.Expansion of primary and secondary schools	1. Government
DRC		

In **Tanzania, the government has** identified efforts in education aimed at expanding educational facilities at both the primary and secondary level.

4.0 Selected good practices for youth violence prevention

Good practices are defined as concepts, processes or activities that are particularly innovative towards the successful achievement of the overall objective. A good practice can be anything that works, whether in full or in part. Good practices can be classified into three categories: innovative practices, successful and demonstrated practices, and replicated good practices. There are numerous good practices in the Great Lakes region but the following have been identified as the more promising examples for youth empowerment that have potential for youth violence prevention.

4.1 Kenya CASE examples

Tuelewane” Youth Exchange Program to Enhance Peace (Youth to youth dialogue)

The “Tuelewane” Youth Exchange programme was initiated by the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Youth Affairs, in partnership with UNDP-Kenya in response to the realization that Kenya was on the brink of ethnic fallout as observed through the post- election crisis. Other implementing partners are the Ministry of Special Programmes and Partnership for Peace. The Programme is implemented in Kiambu, Kisii, Nyeri, Marakwet, Rarieda and Nairobi .This programme employs activities such as rallies, community soccer, community activities like clean-ups, home stays and religious activities. It is estimated that in every “Tuelewane” activity, 5,000 people are reached. The youth have also been able to penetrate community radios to engage with the community on the message of reconciliation. This has helped shift the perceptions among communities, particularly in rural communities, that “the other” community is not the enemy and have concentrated on real development challenges. It has made it possible for youth to travel to other communities and engage in dialogue with the intergeneration members of these communities in the endeavour to broaden their world views, promote diversity, inculcate tolerance and promote acquisition of technical and life skills. Rarieda, Tetu, Turkana and Eldoret East were among the 16 constituencies that the youth were drawn from and actively integrated in the cultural exchange. The Kenya Youth Empowerment Programme (KYEP) has set up a network of all the empowering projects established by the youth who participated in the “Tuelewane” exchange programmes. The network has been linking up all the groups that have been formed through the exchange programmes and drawn from the 16 constituencies. 75% of the groups in KYEP has initiated socio-economic activities ranging from cereal banking, tree planting, joint reconstruction of houses destroyed during PEV, peace dialogues amongst other innovative

and empowering projects. Between October 2007 and December 2009, six “Tuelewane” activities had taken place with six major conflicting communities having been involved. About 360 youth had been directly targeted for training and education on peace and conflict resolution. Each youth leader reached has been able to reach 12 youths directly, and therefore the exchange has reached over 4,320 youth leaders across the country in the majorly conflict prone areas.

The programme has enabled youth mentorship, enhanced intergenerational dialogues, directed links with traditionally conflict communities and built an entrepreneurial culture amongst the youth. It has also been able to address issues relating to ethnic prejudices, inadequate life skills, limited technical skills and knowledge, skewed world views, cultural barriers and attitudes, insufficient role models, trauma from the post-election violence, ethnic politics and media influence.

Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA)-*Role of sports in empowerment of youth*

MYSA is a self-help youth programme linking sports with environmental clean-ups, AIDS prevention, leadership training and other community service activities involving approximately twenty thousand young people. It was created in 1987 as a small self-help project to organize sports and environmental clean ups within the Mathare slum in Nairobi. The organization has grown from a small youth group to an internationally renowned youth-serving organization that promotes sports for development. By 1988, 120 new teams joined the group. That was the beginning of Kenya's first football league for under- 12 year olds. With this, the number of slum clean-up projects was increased. By 1996, about 5,000 boys and girls composing 350 teams from 50 slum villages and estates participated in the MYSA sports slum clean-up and HIV/AIDS prevention projects. The organisation aims to create opportunities for young persons to develop physically and personally while engaging in community development projects, promote life skills and empower young people to participate in activities that affect them and their environment, mainstream citizenship and promote responsibility in environmental issues, encourage many females to participate in sports thus providing many opportunities for girls. The organisation is run by young people, most voluntarily as coaches, referees and organizers. The MYSA league is run by local committees of the coaches and captains. The Chairs of each local committee constitutes the Sports Council, which is responsible for all MYSA sports programmes. The average age of elected officials and volunteer organizers and coaches is 16 years. The Mathare United senior and junior professional teams each do a minimum of 60 hours of community service a month and have proven to be good role models and heroes of other youth in the Mathare slums. The other projects in MYSA include the photography programme through which the youth acquire photography and videography skills, the children at risk programme which helps feed kids in the juvenile courts and the Kabete remand home, the anti-child labour programme and finally the drama, puppetry, music and dance project which gives life skill messages through entertainment.

The Kazi kwa Vijana Programme-*Youth Economic Empowerment*

The Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV) is a nation-wide programme under the Office of the Prime Minister initiated in 2009. It is currently supported by the World Bank. The programme aims to reduce the vulnerability of unemployed young women and men by providing temporary employment in labor-intensive projects that provide income opportunities to participating youth, and at the same time, enhance the communities' access to social and economic infrastructure. The target group of the programme is unemployed youth in the 18-35 age brackets. KKV is intended to help meet two critical needs, providing relief to the people at risk through gainful employment and contributing to increasing food production, particularly through better utilization of water resources. Those employed in the KKV are engaged in manual small projects in their own communities. In the rural areas they build water dams and irrigation systems, repair borehole and access roads, clear bushes, sow organic fertilizers and seeds, and plant trees. In urban areas, the youth

build and operate water kiosks, develop and implement waste management systems, and repair and maintain access roads to improve quality of life particularly in the slum areas.⁷¹

4.2 Democratic Republic of Congo CASE examples

“Reintegration of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The reintegration of child soldiers is an initiative which approaches the issue of violence through a comprehensive, integral approach. It is led by the *Commission Nationale de Désarmement, Démobilisation et Réinsertion* (CONADER) and implemented in the eastern DR Congo province of Maniema with the aid of urban and village communities. It looks at the reintegration of former child soldiers into society. To avoid either stigmatisation or apparent preferential treatment of these youths, their integration takes place together with other victims of the war – orphans and street children.

The project promotes the acquisition by the affected children and young people, particularly girls, of vocational and other important skills and knowledge that assist their reintegration into the civil society.

Measures to make up for missed schooling are also included. The young people are eligible for catch-up

classes on the primary education level through a programme agreed between UNICEF and the government. Particular attention is given to practical application of the qualifications gained following the schooling and training.

4.3 Burundi CASE examples

Kamenge Youth Center: The north area of Bujumbura, the capital, is highly affected by violence. The CNDD rebellion began in Kamenge, in the northern part of Bujumbura. Due to armed conflict the area around Many Gatumba, near the border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo has many displaced persons. Kamenge Youth Center has been in existence in the area since 1991. During and after the crisis in 1994, it was instrumental in organizing meetings between young Tutsi and Hutu through sports and cultural activities. The reconciliation between groups in conflicts was the main target reason for its formation. During the last 15 years, the Kamenge Youth Center brought together youth of all social, ethnic and religious backgrounds to be involved in different activities with the aim of fostering peace and coexistence. It is through collaboration between schools, administrative and religious associations and local NGOs, that the Kamenge Youth Centre actions have been influential in all districts of the capital. This influence is possible thanks to concrete activities such as workshops on Peace and Reconciliation, AIDS awareness, literacy activities, labor camps, computer training. The vast majority of the Center’s activities are conducted in groups. These activities can help young people enter in the world of work, but also promote educational standards (school support). Many sporting, cultural, social and religious activities are at the disposal of youth to facilitate good relationships. Kamenge Youth Centre is one of the first organizations that dared to bring together youths of different ethnic groups that have been strongly divided. They live in different balkanized quarters differentiated by ethnicity (North quarters: Hutu; south quarters: Tutsi). This center has expanded greatly as it now has nearly 30,000 members from 16 to 30 years. The Kamenge Youth Center received the Right Livelihood Award in 2002.

⁷¹ Interview with head, empowerment and participation MOYAS

JAMAA⁷² JAMAA is a Swahili word which mean “family, friend”. Youth often use that word in order to say ‘a friend”. The JAMAA Association is a non-governmental organization initiated by the young people of Bujumbura who stood up and resisted against hatred and violence in the midst of the troubled period of 1993-1996. The Association was born in 1995, during the violence between young Hutu and Tutsi in the capital. The JAMAA Association seeks to prevent conflicts, especially among youth, and support peace building while uniting Burundian youth to work for a fair, peaceful and democratic society. JAMAA’s activities, such as reconciliation between divided groups of youth include: capacity building programs, community works and debates aim to combat ethnic division and consolidate peace. The main idea is to promote awareness in youth of their own power to change the situation. The association has three main objectives: to create links of solidarity between youths of different ethnic groups through economic, sporting and leisure activities, (2) to strengthen unity and independence of youths facing the political lobbies, (3) to engage youths of all ethnic groups in peace building activities. The JAMAA association has created many actions in accordance with the objectives: the organization of football tournaments between city youth, the production of a movie and a cartoon named "*best choice*" (the movie is often used in advocacy exercises for peace in schools); the building of houses for displaced persons, and advocacy exercises in rural communities to fight against the recruitment of child soldiers.

4.4 Tanzania CASE examples

Good Programs for youth empowerment and development. Programs termed as useful for the health and welfare of youths are mainly those supported by international multilateral organizations such as UNICEF or UNFPA. It is mainly the UN system organizations that provide support to youth involvement in most stages of project development. Other organizations that appear to have an impact on youth involvement include *Tunajali*, the Clinton Health Foundation, *Kijana Amka* and the Family Health Initiative⁷³. *Ishi* is an example of a good program that focuses on the health and welfare of youth. It is focused on empowering youth to prevent themselves from health risks such as unprotected sexual encounters, HIV and AIDS, and other sexually based health risks. This program is supported by Family Health International, among other donors. *Champion* is a second program that focuses mainly on establishing skills and knowledge among male youths, and third is the creation of youth centers through UMATI⁷⁴. Programs and projects that address the health and welfare of youths are mainly supported through development partners, and therefore carry strict conditions that serve mainly to justify the projects. Increasing numbers of youths are now confronted with later age diseases such as diabetes, heart problems, blood pressure, and others. Most youths do not check their health, and instead wait it out for projects and programs to push them.⁷⁵

Resources for youth empowerment: The ministry responsible for youth in Tanzania-Mainland has allocated 500 million shillings to the **Youth Development Fund**. These funds are to be borrowed by youth organizations and groups in all District Councils (on average 3.5 million shillings per district). Moreover, 15 years ago, a directive was issued by the government for each District Council to allocate 5% of its own resources to cater for youth and women. The challenge is that allocations are skimpy, and the expenditure of most of these funds is shadowy. The "*Machinga Complex*" in Dar Es Salaam’s Ilala Municipality is an example of an investment that was justified as focusing mainly on providing retail

⁷² www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/Burundi.

⁷³ Interview with a Youth Development officer, Tanzania

⁷⁴ Interview with Director, Parapanda Youth Club

⁷⁵ Ibid

facilities for un housed youth businesses.⁷⁶ Overall, the Zanzibar government provides inadequate resources for facilitating youth development. There are 350,000 youths in the country, and funds allocated to their development amount to around 100 million shillings (or a paltry 300 shillings per youth). In recent years the government provided working tools for youths in dairy and brick making projects. UNFPA has recently availed USD \$ 30,000 for youth activities, but was unsecured. Most development actors and partners prefer to provide “soft” support such as capacity building and training, and skills upgrading. The main challenge is receiving support to acquire tools and equipment⁷⁷.

5.0 Summary, conclusion and recommendations

Youth in the Great Lakes region is a vital partner for peace and development. Through their action, youth have proven that they want to be considered and that they can be recognized as part of the solution. Nevertheless youth faces many challenges that can lead them to violence. Such factors include poverty, unemployment, unequal distribution of resources and lack of opportunities for livelihood, lack of access to quality education, social and political exploitation, social exclusion, and lack of political participation.

There is growing recognition of the need to invest in young people and to develop their potential in the region. This is evidenced by the attempts by governments to develop policies and programs geared towards youth development and empowerment. However, it is clear that countries in the region are still in a learning process of trying to support and sustain the constructive engagement of youth, by providing the appropriate opportunities and space for youth to engage and express themselves. The legal, policy and institutional framework for youth development and empowerment is still in its formative stages. Since youth development initiatives are relatively new in the region, lessons will have to be drawn from international experience. Therefore, UNESCO and other development partners can play a very important role to help the countries in the region by drawing from good practices elsewhere in the world. Within the understanding that violence affecting youth is as a complex phenomenon that has diverse political, economic and social causes, thus holistic and/or systemic measures including a gender perspective are required to effectively address this social challenge, it is recommended to:

- ✓ Provide and make information available on the fact that prevention is more cost effective than repression and that sport is an effective tool for social inclusion and the prevention of violence.
- ✓ Develop better platforms for youth participation in order to work with and for youth to offer them more opportunities for employment, recognition and affiliation. Young people should be informed and involved regarding national laws and challenges.
- ✓ Put into place and develop existing youth enterprise development funds and ensure that all young people have access to and knowledge of these funds. Make sure that these funds are distributed amongst all young people’s groups in the community, especially the marginalized.
- ✓ Develop “open spaces” (schools, churches, youth clubs), where young people can come to learn and develop life skills, employability skills, and practice sport and cultural activities. These could be developed in collaboration with UNESCO (using the best practices from Latin America) and with NGOs on the ground in each country. Young people should be protected by ensuring an end to physical and sexual exploitation and be formally involved in ensuring the security of their neighborhoods where they could play an important role in peace building or security.

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ Ibid

- ✓ Design training focusing on the resolution of problems in non-violent ways, peaceful participating processes, and capacity building for young people to know their rights.
- ✓ Promote evidence-based research and the development of indicators regarding changing transition patterns of young people.

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