

## **Center for Nonviolent Communication Project in Africa**

Coordinated by Dunia Hategekimana

Two years ago I recognized there was a need to coordinate all the activities promoting Nonviolent Communication<sup>sm</sup> (NVC) that were happening in Africa since Marshall Rosenberg visited the continent in 1993. In consultation with CNVC, we set up the Africa Project to train teams of African trainers in the highly skilled application of NVC and look for ways of getting financial and material resources to back up their work in their respective countries/communities.

Now we are working in partnership with people and organizations in Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Egypt, Sierra Leone, and South Africa.

Dunia Hategekimana, Director of the Center's African Project, is shown with members of the project attending the Intensive International Training in Switzerland, November 23 through December 3, 2000. The members of the team are Jean-Berchmans Nahimana, Burundi, Dunia Hategekimana, Rwanda, Father Jean-Baptiste Ndikuryio, Burundi, Marie-Louise Sibazuri, Burundi, Theoneste Rutagegwa, Rwanda, and Adolphe Sururu, Brundi.

### **Objectives of the 7-year African project**

- To bring NVC to various individuals and communities in various African Countries by running workshops for both the promotion of NVC, and for identifying needs and potential trainers in their countries.
- To strengthen the participation of refugees from Africa in the host communities, organizations, charities and local African networks.
- Enable refugees from Africa and people from the host community to use Nonviolent Communication as a means of handling tensions and conflicts and preventing violence in their relationships and contributing directly and indirectly to peace building in the home countries in Africa.
- To provide NVC training to people and public and private organizations within Africa and elsewhere, who are helping African people. They will then use the NVC model to involve their beneficiaries in the processes of making their case to the agencies and clarifying what it is people are needing, and how they can deliver.
- To train teams of African trainers in Africa in the highly skilled application of NVC and raise their awareness of the principles on which it is built.
- To set up a funding programme that will enable us to sustain the work of a team of about 40 people who have a track record of being entrepreneurial within their communities and are interested in working with NVC to facilitate peacemaking in their country/communities.

### **Our plan has three phases**

We are currently working on the first phase of the 7-year project and are making contacts with potential funding bodies. We are also sharing our programme with people who have contacted us for that sake and who are supportive to the work we are doing. Marshall and Dunia have run trainings in Africa identifying potential trainers.

### **Phase one: June 2001 to December 2002**

- Raise money to fund the Africa Project Coordinator's salary and the cost of running the Project for the next seven years.
- Respond to existing requests from individuals/organizations from Rwanda, Burundi and Burundi Refugee Camp, South Africa, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Malawi and Uganda for CNVC trainers to come and run introductory training programmes sometime this year, for groups of people they have identified. Money needs to be raised to pay honorariums and travel expenses of the experienced certified trainers.
- Extend the pool of experienced CNVC trainers who are able to run introductory training programmes in Africa. This will involve Marshall B. Rosenberg and Dunia Hategekimana running a programme for existing CNVC trainers who have either expressed a wish to run NVC training in Africa but who have little or no experience working in this continent, or who are very experienced in working in Africa but need to develop their skills in training NVC.
- Help those key people of the African countries that are already part of the African CNVC Network to write proposals that will help them to get the funding to run training and provide support for local NVC initiatives within their region during the next few years.
- Complete the design of the Africa programme for African refugees living in Europe and Canada in consultation with their group representatives.
- Consult potential partners in the setting up and running of the Funding Development Programme (FDP) and look for potential funders.

### **Phase Two: 2003–2006**

- Provide certified trainers to run foundation NVC courses to those African countries within the network.
- Organize and run an International Intensive Training each year in a different African Country starting with South Africa at the beginning of 2003, Kenya mid-2003.
- Identify countries not yet in the CNVC network and find people/organizations to host the running of introductory programmes, e.g., Ethiopia, Algeria, Angola, and Senegal.
- Set up the FDP to run the fund in conjunction with partner organizations and identify the key entrepreneurial people and give grants.
- Run a series of training programmes through which to identify people who will carry out the peacemaking role in schools, prisons, governments and communities.
- Develop and run the ongoing support programme for these identified people working in peacemaking and the projects they set up.
- Set up a certification process for those people who have reached a certain level of experience and skill.
- Design and translate existing materials to support these activities.
- Run the Africa Programme through the designed modules with African refugees in exile.
- Create regular learning forums with people and agencies that are working with Africans to exchange experience that has been gained through actively involving

- people in the setting up and running of their projects, and look at ways to capitalize on this experience.
- Set up regional resource centers.

### **Phase Three: 2006–2008**

- Ensure that the mechanisms for long-term funding and experience for running NVC projects exist in the regions and communities within those African countries that have been part of the CNVC network for the last five years.
- Ensure that the existing countries can meet requests from communities and countries new to NVC to provide training and support.
- Set up a platform for sharing experience of social transformation through the use of NVC and funding projects between countries in the North and South.

### **How Can You Contribute to This Project?**

You can contribute in various ways for the early part of the programme. We would enjoy receiving any form of support (financial, material . . .) in relation to:

- The running cost of the Africa Project Coordination and the Coordinator honorarium contribution to the Funding Development Programme (financial and or material support, ideas, time, etc.)
- Funding for the programme or part of it, resources.
- Supporting Marshall and Dunia organizing and running workshops for specialized training for trainers.
- Contacts for funding bodies (ideas on how to get support for projects which are focused on the needs of a particular country).
- Liaison for a twinning project between a partner from Europe or America and Africa. Writing a proposal for fund raising.
- Designing a programme for writing proposal for fund raising for a school programme.

**For further information** you can contact Dunia Hategekimana: telephone/fax: +44-20-8341-1872, db-hategekimana@daraja.com