

DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Model for Healing in the Democratic Republic of Congo

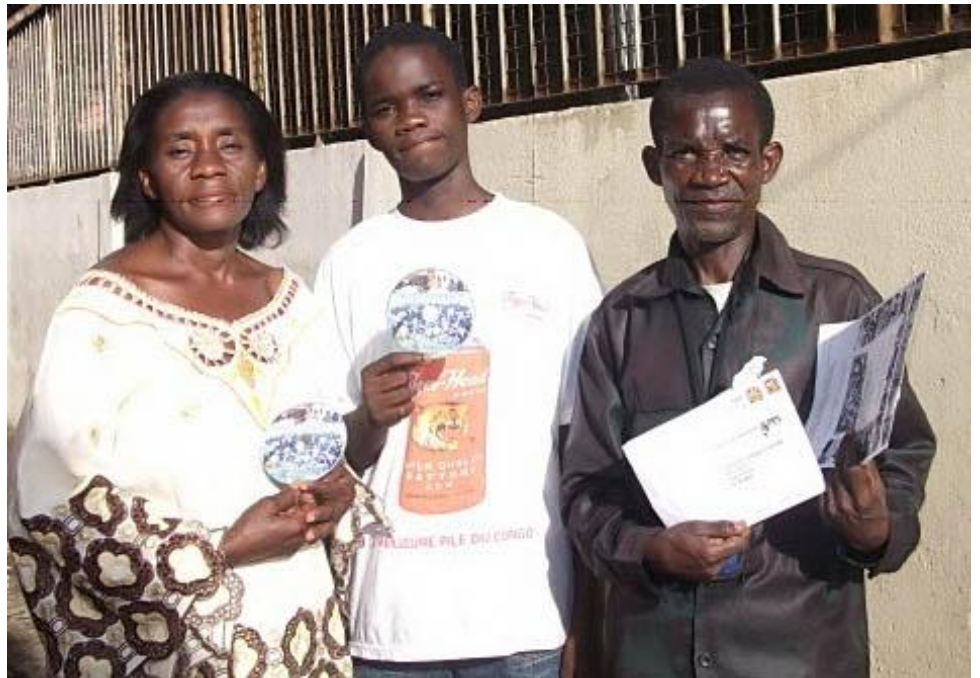


Lumenge Jacques Lubangu is part of the *Association Des Rescapes Des Massacres de Makobola (ARMMK)*, in English the *Association of Survivors of the Makobola Massacres*, in Fizi, South Kivu, on the far eastern border of DR Congo.



1. ARRIVAL OF FILM

In March, 2013, Lumenge, his family, and their colleagues requested and received the 65-minute film-on-DVD, [*DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future.*](#)



2. TRANSLATION

Their team began translating into French and Swahili languages, seeking tools and principles for grassroots inter-ethnic communication, conflict resolution, and peaceful co-existence in their multi-lingual society.

The DRC has many languages and dialects. French is the most used by intellectuals, and Swahili in smaller communities and on the streets. So the first imperative was to spend **three days to translate into French and Swahili**, to facilitate listening comprehension for themselves and others in DR Congo.



A research project was begun to analyze if *DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA* offered useful tools for conflicts within DR Congo families, schools, and local communities. During Thursday and Friday, **11-12 April, 2013**, (1) film screenings were followed by (2) participatory dialogue to define specific conflicts and explore tools for peaceful solutions.

3. FILM VIEWING IN THE FAMILY

Family in-home experience was the third step in the educational project.



4. SCREENING IN A SCHOOL

Forty-five students from different schools were gathered for practical education about finding appropriate methodology from film to transform today's enemies into tomorrow's friends and partners.

Young participants were **chosen by three standards:**

A. Their school brings together students from diverse provinces, cities, towns, and communities with different cultures and religions.

B. The students can easily carry the torch of nonviolence and communication excellence back to their communities, while modeling dialogue for a return to sustained relationships and peaceful coexistence;

C. In illiterate homes and communities, children who come from schools are listened to by their parents and neighbors.



After viewing *DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA*, students expressed learning that:

- A. personal Perceptions vary, influenced by each person's life experiences, interests, values, and culture.
- B. each person has areas of Ignorance and insufficient experience and knowledge.
- C. it is impossible to escape Prejudice, because of limiting family teachings, social education, and group pressure.
- D. limited Perception and Prejudice cause us to see all members of the "other" group as having certain, usually negative traits.
- E. one group (boys, for example) can discriminate against another group (girls) related to their level of and access to education and culture in local communities.
- F. ethnicity and religion can divide, with separated Muslim and Christian schools causing students to exaggerate differences and incorrectly believe that teachings of the Koran and Bible create different kinds of human beings.



RECOMMENDATIONS

All groups involved in April, 2013, experiences exchanges recommended:

- A. Beginning with at least 100 people, organize a seminar to gather the whole culture -- institutions, the Army, the Police, students, religious groups, diverse communities, local organizations, civil society, because everyone is affected and interdependent.
- B. Equip and fund the ARMMK organization to organize the seminar, including creation of educational materials and translation of English language documents into French and Swahili.
- C. Invite a representative of the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC).
- D. Disperse more DVDs and multiply the discussion seminars throughout the DRC, in view of the needs of all the people traumatized by past conflicts.

CONCLUSION

The DVDs of *DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA* mailed by the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group in California were "of paramount importance" to the DR Congo communities where conflict and human suffering continue. To respond to this situation, a seminar is proposed with the theme -- ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF CONFLICT WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION ACTUAL. This seminar would be based on [*DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future*](#).

CONTACT

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ARMMK-DRC was founded in 2007 and focuses on developing inter-ethnic peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution at a grassroots level.

Video with more information is at

<http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/video/interview-with-armmk-a>

This document and follow-up actions are on the Web at

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriadrcongoeast.htm>