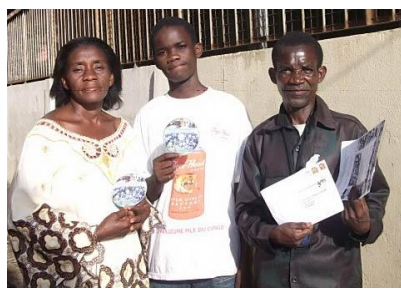




Step #5: Albino ~ Non-Albino Relationship Building & Education in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

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.

Using principle-based, experiential education, they hope to bring citizens face-to-face to reject violence and master tools of communication excellence and community-building for the good of all DR Congo and its neighbors.



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.](#)

First steps were to (1) translate materials into French then (2) view the film among their families before (3) screening it in a local school classroom. These

beginnings are documented in text and photos at <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriadrcongoeast01.pdf> This foundation of these experiences led to initiating a larger public Dialogue.



In August, 2013, women and men of diverse ethnic, tribal, and religious groups then met for face-to-face skill-building in Uvira just west of Lake Lake Tanganyika. **FACE-TO-FACE DIALOGUE to prevent Inaccurate Perception, Prejudice, Stereotypes, Discrimination, and HIV/AIDS** helped to gain new communication skills and begin to

heal their relationships. The story and photos are at <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriadrcongoeast02.pdf>

Albino ~ Non-Albino Relationship Building & Education

Early October 2013
Bujumbura, Burundi

Early October 2013, Lumenge Jacques Lubangu of ARMMK traveled from Fizi-South Kivu, DR Congo, 50 km. east across the border to Bujumbura, the capital of the Republic of Burundi. It is in the Great Lakes sub-region bordering the DRC, Rwanda, and Tanzania to the shore of Lake Tanganyika, 50 km from Bangwe - Makobola Fizi Territory and 40 km Territory Uvira.

Lumenge, representing ARMMK. began building a relationship with **Platini Lukonga**, Communication Officer of ALBINO WITHOUT FRONTIERS, while learning about one another's organization.





Platini described the fear throughout the Albino community from historical assaults and even beheadings leaving them in a condition of stress and trauma. The two men concluded that the organization of a seminar on reconciliation between Albinos and Non- Albinos could help psycho-social reintegration. The idea to organize a seminar on reconciliation and cohabitation between Albinos and Non-Albinos was very well received. With everyone happy and interested, the remaining need was lack of funding.

15 October 2013

Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo

Meeting with Action for the Promotion of Albino (APA) in the DRC and the Lukonga branch of Albino Without Frontiers, Burundi, revealed that many other Albinos are in more remote parts of Uvira city. Planning was begun for outreach to them by:

1. Leasing a space for one month of radio broadcasts.
2. Provide a phone-open method for all the world, with listening to people's stories.
3. Issue invitations to the circle of listeners to then gather as face-to-face Albino ~ Non-Albino circle.

Monday, 21 October 2013, they rented for one month a broadcast space with RADIO THE MESSENGER OF THE PEOPLE located in Uvira, South Kivu, DR Congo. Broadcasts were each Monday beginning 2030 (8:30 pm).

Project Report:

ALBINO AWARENESS AND RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING WITH NON-ALBINOS Open Space Broadcasts on Radio "MESSENGER OF THE PEOPLE" Every Monday 20H30 to 21H (8:30-9:00 pm)

To correct Albino social isolation and discrimination, the Association of Survivors of Makobola Massacres (ARMMK) and Action for the Advancement of Albino (APA) undertook a long campaign to cover the Territory of Uvira populated with 582,500 inhabitants over an area of 4000 km² and Fizi Territory inhabited by 405,255 people over an area of 41,400 km² whose Albinos are up to 5% of the population.

The population is dispersed in widely separated locations. so widespread awareness resulting in a circle of face-to-face Albino ~ Non-Albino engagement required radio program broadcasting. A space was rented on a local radio station, "THE MESSENGER OF THE PEOPLE," most listened to by diverse citizens.



"Albino," the 30-minute program sponsored by ARMMK, began Monday, 21 October, 2013. At the microphone were **Mr. Safasco Kabwali** of APA, **Mr. David Kabange**, APA activity trainer, and **Mr. Lubangu Lumenge Jacques** of ARMMK. the sole non-Albino.

The first broadcast began with Mr. Safasco Kabwali describing Albino history, their way of life, and difficulties encountered in non-Albino communities. Mr. David Kabange described how



Albinos suffer threats, contempt, mistrust, isolation, criminal kidnapping, in-family abuse, and divorce. Fragile Albino bodies catch diseases. Prejudice and unemployment result in poverty with inability to pay for medical expenses, hospitalization, and children's schooling.

The importance of creating safe spaces and effective peacebuilding activities was described by Mr. Lubangu Lumenge Jacques. He illustrated his experiences bringing together diverse citizens – even adversaries and "enemies" – by forming circles in face-to-face dialogue that humanize

everyone and train artisans of communication excellence that dignifies everyone.

These historic broadcasts marked the first time for such 30-minute paid space paid on radio. Listeners were very interested, with some requesting two broadcasts per week. During listener phone-in times following the formal presentations, more than 20 calls were answered. Broadcast time ran out, but post-program telephone conversations continued.

Outcomes included (1) a massive listening audience with the Albino message being heard by a majority of the population and (2) the uplifted spirits of Albinos who did not expect such a radio project would be implemented purely for their good.

The second broadcast on Monday, 28 October 2013 illustrated the equal humanity of Albinos with non-Albinos, whose civil, legal, and political rights must be respected by the whole society. During the two weeks, Albino awareness and the audience increased.

Albinos and non-Albino listeners equally were invited to engage, become familiar with one another, overcome ignorance and fear, and work together for the development of our country and continent. Many listeners request twice-a-week programs.



Initiator of Space
Association of Survivors of Makobola Massacre (ARMMK)
 Jacques Lumenge Lubangu
Action for the Promotion of Albino (APA)
 Safasco Kabwali

For more information:

Lumenge Jacques Lubangu

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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>

The larger story and this document are on the Web at
<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriadrcongoeast.htm>