



# YOUTH IN THE PERIPHERIES:

Extending the Evidence on Youth Contributions to Peace in the Great Lakes Region

**Project Coordinator:** Raphael Nkurunziza

**Lead researchers:**

Shadi Rouhshahbaz  
Christian Cirhigiri Cito

**Country Teams**

***YELI Burundi, Burundi***

**Researchers:**

Bob Bonheur Bedetse  
Ella Raïssa Nikuze  
Franck Ngenzebuhoro

Coordinated by Divine Kabanyana

***Youth Social Advocacy Team, Uganda***

**Researchers:**

Amuna Viviane  
Jacob Nhial Bol Char  
Luete Shem Henry

Coordinated by John Jal Dak

***Peacebuilding Team, Democratic Republic of Congo***

**Researchers:**

Chikuru Didier Magadju  
Christophe Lubera Yves  
Esther Soki Nyamulera

Coordinated by Kevin Mechack Sanvura

**Copyeditors:** Maarten van Bijnen and Jo Coenen

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As highlighted in the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda, young people are key actors for their fundamental role in contributing to creating and sustaining peaceful societies as well as transforming and preventing conflicts. The participation of young people and partnerships between youth and institutions have a significant impact on the development and security of societies. Such processes can lead to the prevention of violence and the protection of populations, while simultaneously recreating and strengthening social contracts between States and their citizens. The urgency for multi-stakeholder engagement for the implementation of the YPS agenda is of crucial importance in all contexts, but increasingly so in countries and contexts affected by conflict and crisis.

In the African Great Lakes Region (GLR), conflicts have persisted for over two decades. These conflicts have caused instability across the continent and are responsible for the death of millions, the displacement of thousands, recruitment of child soldiers, war crimes, sexual and gender-based violence, and other atrocities. The conflicts in the GLR are caused by and continue due to many intertwining political, economic, and cultural factors, as well as security and governance concerns. Historically, the conflicts can be traced back to the Scramble for Africa, a post-colonial process during which arbitrary partitioning of borders took place and became one of the root challenges of nation-building and state-building across the continent.

A lesser-known approach to analysing and resolving the conflicts in this region is to focus on understanding the borders of these countries as a central zone where political and economic ecosystems are created and operate differently from the capital level – such zones are referred to as borderlands. These borderlands are highly unstable, neglected, underdeveloped, ethnically divided, and are known to be at the centre of informal, cross-border military-economic networks. The diverse set of people that live, know, and are affected by the intricate situation in borderlands are crucial in peacebuilding processes in the region. Among them, youth have the most at stake as they stand to shape their future – it is therefore important to understand their role in the peacebuilding process.



*This research aims to analyse the role and efforts of young people in peacebuilding in the borderlands of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, and Uganda.*

By going beyond the internationally recognised avenues of the implementation of the YPS agenda, such as the participation in decision-making and political processes, this research focuses on the creation of formal and informal peacebuilding spaces by young people across the borderlands of the mentioned countries. The borderlands offer a unique perspective for this research as they offer access to social fabrics and understandings of different cross-border contexts not found in traditional or institutional settings. Finally, conducting research within borderlands is key to policy change because of its access to informal settlements and refugee camps, contexts that are often neglected in general consultations.

Among the most crucial challenges identified by young peacebuilders at the borderlands of Uganda, the DRC, and Burundi were the non-existence of provisions from state institutions, like that of elementary education or healthcare, the antagonisation from their government, in, for example, the securitisation of border regions and marginalisation of local groups, and the ambivalence of international organisations in supporting local peacebuilding initiatives.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

This research identifies the various actors operating in the borderlands of Uganda, Burundi, and the DRC: INGOs and donors, CSOs and youth-led initiatives, the international community (UN), local authorities, state governments, and regional bodies (like the African Union). This research offers a set of recommendations to each actor identified and further tailors each recommendation based on the gathered experience of young peacebuilders in Uganda, Burundi, and the DRC.

For international organisations and donors, some of the recommendations are as follows: in Uganda, invest in training in enterprises that are market-driven to improve youth and community livelihoods, and consider providing scholarships to build the potential of marginalised youth in the area; in Burundi, invest in parent-child dialogue programmes to manage conflicts, as well as in the creation of vocational centres and entrepreneurship systems to support professional development; and in the DRC, to organise inclusive workshops and training on the YPS tailored for marginalised groups in the borderlands area, and establishing active communication exchange channels with youth activities on the ground so they can expand their scope, exchange skills, or better seek finance for their work.

For civil society organisations and youth-led initiatives seeking to operate in the borderlands, the recommendations include: in Uganda, develop projects that can benefit youth and involve youth in the design and implementation process of the projects for sustainability and ownership, and importantly, offer support for mental health to those working on the ground; in Burundi, organise capacity development programmes for youth active in civil society to refine their skills in planning and project management for peacebuilding; and in the DRC, design and propose projects to potential donors bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds to find moments of exchange of experiences and knowledge.

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*Youth are the people with opportunities for today and tomorrow and anything done should include their voice and participation. The stakeholders should come to meet youth [and co-create solutions] either through leadership or individually on things to be done in the community.*

*Young Female Participant from Uganda*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Saving the most important for the last, no research can be done without funding and no funding can be brought about without trust. The aforementioned efforts and the pages that bear their fruits have been possible with the financial and technical support of Cordaid. We are especially grateful to Michael Warren and Sabina Atzei whose priorities have always been supporting, empowering, and protecting young people in their work in peacebuilding. Our immense gratitude is always extended to Cordaid and like-minded partners who wholeheartedly support setting the stage for young people to demonstrate their potential. Intergenerational and multistakeholder partnerships are made through such wonderful exemplary work.

## ACRONYMS

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<b>AFDL</b>	Alliance de Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Congo/ The Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GLR</b>	Great Lakes Region
<b>ICGLR</b>	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
<b>IEP</b>	The Institute for Economics and Peace
<b>L&amp;L</b>	Methodology Listening and Learning Methodology
<b>NAPs</b>	National Action Plans
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>UNOY</b>	United Network of Young Peacebuilders
<b>WPS</b>	Women, Peace and Security
<b>YPS</b>	Youth, Peace and Security

## INTRODUCTION

Since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 in 2015, the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda has called for the meaningful participation, inclusion, protection, and representation of young people in all phases of peace processes and political decision-making. It has also called for partnerships between different actors to move this process forward. Along with its two following Resolutions (UNSCR 2419 and UNSCR 2535), the agenda highlights the agency and rights of young people to prevent, resolve and transform conflicts, as well as to sustain peace and development around the world. The agenda speaks of the importance of the diverse lived experiences, opportunities, challenges, and needs of youth from different contexts. The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) stated that in 2016 an estimated 408 million youth (aged 15–29) resided in settings affected by armed conflict or organised violence. This means that at least one in four young people is affected by violence or armed conflict in some way.<sup>1</sup> The successful implementation of this agenda is a crucial step towards preventing violence and conflict, bridging divisive political polarisation and sustaining justice, peace, and cohesive societies where populations thrive.

According to the Missing Peace Independent Progress Study, “in an increasingly globalized world shaped by pervasive concerns about terrorism, organized transnational crime and extremist violence, perspectives on youth are still distorted by stereotypes that associate young people with violence, as both perpetrators and victims”.<sup>2</sup> The different forms of violent behaviour carried out by young people reflect a variety of unmet needs. These needs include socio-economic development and opportunities; good governance, rule of law, democracy, and human rights; justice and reconciliation; exclusion from local and national decision-making processes and the lack of meaningful representation in these processes.<sup>3</sup> The Missing Peace report illustrates the consequences of

these stereotypes as failures to adequately appreciate and harness the agency, creative practice, and resilience of young people - most of whom are not involved in violence and are just eager to get on with their lives, and some of whom are actively invested in crafting more peaceful societies for themselves and their communities.<sup>4</sup>

The implementation of the YPS agenda is a priority at the regional level on the African continent. Not only due to the number of ongoing crises and conflicts but because young people are both the present and future of nations. This importance has been recognised and addressed in a number of policy instruments across the continent. At the regional level, the African Union’s Peace and Security Council has called on its Member States to develop National Action Plans (NAPs), setting the target that 25% of Member States should develop “youth-led and centred NAPs on YPS by 2024, and 50% by 2029 in the context of its Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security”.<sup>5</sup> Nigeria was the first country to develop its NAP in 2021, followed by the DRC and Cameroon.

Young people participate in peace and security efforts in different ways and through different spaces, including institutional or formal decision-making spaces as well as consultative and alternative non-institutionalised spaces. All contributions are valuable, often reinforce one another and adopt hybrid forms in practice. For example, a public campaign for peace can effectively support the continuation of peacebuilding activities such as the campaigns of local youth-led organisations that are members of the DRC YPS Coalition whose objective is to promote the YPS agenda in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the development of a national action plan.<sup>6</sup>

1 Hagerty, Talia. *Data for Youth, Peace and Security: A summary of research findings from the Institute for Economics & Peace* (September 2017), 2: [https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2018-04/16.%20TP\\_Youth%20affected%20by%20violent%20conflict\\_IEP.pdf](https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2018-04/16.%20TP_Youth%20affected%20by%20violent%20conflict_IEP.pdf)

2 Simpson, Graeme. *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (2018), 17: <https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2018-10/youth-web-english.pdf>

3 For more information see Ismail, Olawale & Olonisakin, Funmi (2018) ‘*Evaluation of Policy and Research Evidence on Youth Vulnerability and Exclusion and Violence in Africa*’, IDRC, Kenya/Canada. See also, Ismail, Olawale & Alao, C. (2007) ‘Youth in the Interface of Development and Security’, *Journal of Conflict, Security and Development*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (April 2007), 3-26.

4 Simpson, Graeme. *The Missing Peace*, 17.

5 African Union Commission. *Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security* (2020): <https://au.int/en/documents/20200821/continental-framework-youth-peace-and-security>

6 For more information check Rapport annuel YFPDRC 2021 - YOUTH FOR PEACE RDC Plateforme des organisations des jeunes œuvrant pour la paix en RDC

## METHODOLOGY

This research gathered data in the borderlands of Burundi, the DRC, and Uganda using the Listening and Learning (L&L) methodology, a qualitative youth-led methodology rooted in Youth Participatory Action Research<sup>7</sup> developed by Search for Common Ground.<sup>8</sup> This methodology was found fit for this research project due to its emphasis on connection between individuals, trust, active listening, and inclusivity. It is an accessible method that encourages a connection between actors and the empowerment of youth actors through their participation in local dialogues. This methodology not only allows for qualitative data gathering in otherwise marginalised communities, but encourages skill-development and leadership among young peacebuilders in the area who engage with local communities in their peacebuilding research.

The L&L methodology equips youth researchers with the skills to transform the art of conversation into a rigorous inquiry process that is easily adaptable to local contexts, especially in cultures with a deep oral tradition. In this way, participants feel less interrogated and are more likely to engage with the research process. L&L also empowers young people to lead a process, develop ownership of it, and adapt it to other projects and contexts. It emphasises the development of young people's knowledge, skills, and abilities to be experts on issues of importance to them, and catalyses systemic change in collaboration with their peers and supportive adults. Lastly, this kind of research builds upon the social capital<sup>9</sup> of young people. It builds the foundations for networking and future community initiatives as well as increases "the potential of individuals to secure benefits and invent solutions to problems through membership in social networks".<sup>10</sup>

### A Benefits of L&L: Preventing Research Fatigue

The L&L methodology helps to counter research fatigue, which the writers of this report saw as a potential challenge. Research encounters are not just negotiated and managed by researchers but are also actively negotiated, managed, and experienced by those who agree to be involved and who have their own perceptions of engagement. Research fatigue can occur when individuals and groups become tired of engaging with research. Fatigue is characterised

by the reluctance to continue an engagement with an existing project or further research. In effect, the experience of an earlier engagement begins to act as a barrier to future involvement. This typically occurs in two contexts: firstly, in projects that require participation over time, and, secondly, in research groups where requests for participation are common – for example, in areas where research groups are limited or 'hard to reach'. This leads to a few groups being consulted over and over without any feedback on how their participation can meaningfully change their conditions. It is also unfortunate that in some cases, the value of the participants' voices and the data that they provide is not cherished in a representative manner and remains uncredited.

If similar experiences are repeated across a range of individuals and projects, research fatigue may also lead to the suggestion that particular groups of interest are being 'over-researched'. Indeed, such claims are an overt expression from communities that they are tired of participating and no longer value the experience or any of its associated outcomes.

To overcome the aforementioned challenges, the L&L methodology tries to fill the gaps in a number of ways. Due to its conversational nature, it deliberately navigates the challenges of over-exhausted topics from previous research. L&L conducts interviews more conversationally, rather than as a one-sided data-gathering process where respondents share personal information in a question-and-answer manner. This places the focus on exchanging experiences and sharing vulnerabilities between interviewers and respondents, which leads to more intimate data, views, experiences, emotions, and details - data that would otherwise be left out.

During the L&L methodology, the research team has access to the research context and attempts to meet with the research participants at a time and location at their convenience. This is done in order to reduce the costs and time necessary to conduct the research. The power dynamics between the participants and researchers are rendered equal. By involving local researchers, L&L limits mistrust and hierarchical and colonial notions, because participants find the researchers to be one of them, rather than outsiders. The fact that this type of research is usually undertaken by researchers who are community leaders and changemakers may help put to rest doubts and encourage information-sharing in order to spur transformation.

7 This methodology is used to investigate meaningful social topics, participate in research to understand the root causes of problems that directly impact them, and then take action to influence policies through the dissemination of their findings to policymakers and stakeholders. It promotes youth's involvement in their communities and the development of leadership skills. Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) is a tool for increasing youth involvement in social movement organising that can generate renewed enthusiasm for social change and create new opportunities for youth leadership. <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/sites/cyber.law.harvard.edu/files/KBWParticipatoryActionResearch2012.pdf>

8 Find out more here: <https://www.sfcg.org/youth-led-research/>

9 Social capital theory (SCT) was first defined by Bourdieu (1985) as "the aggregate of the actual or potential resources which are linked to possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance or recognition".

10 Poteyeva, M. "social capital". Encyclopaedia Britannica, December 17, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/social-capital>.

## Research process

This research was conducted in a gender-sensitive process, meaning that it took into account the gender of the participants as a significant variable in the data collected. Practically, it looked further into the governing power structures and power relations between men and women across different ages to be able to extract different experiences, viewpoints, challenges and, thus, create equal value.

In the DRC, young researchers interviewed 145 participants in Bunagana (at the border with Uganda), Uvira (at the border with Burundi), and Bukavu (at the border with Rwanda). Participants' ages varied between 18 and 35. In Uganda, the research covered seven zones of the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, which are inhabited by 125,000 refugees from South Sudan, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, and Burundi. Youth make up about 70% of the settlement's population. Within the settlements, young researchers interviewed 124 respondents. In Burundi, researchers reached 142 participants, consisting of 108 young people and 34 representatives of institutions ranging from local administration entities to security, religious groups, and community leadership. In the region of Mutimbuzi, it reached the four zones of Rubirizi, Maramvya, Gatumba, and Rukaramu with two focus groups of 12 people per region, and 15 people in the region of Gihanga (Annex 1).

## CONTEXT

### Conflicts around the Great Lakes Region

Since the 1990s, the countries of around Africa's Great Lakes have been connected through an increasingly regionalised, transnational, and cyclical complex of violent conflict, mass displacement, and state fragility. Frictions between Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Uganda, as well as their neighbour Rwanda, have traditionally played out most violently in the eastern DRC. In October of 1996, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (ADFCL), a coalition movement backed by neighbouring countries, including Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda, led the first Congo war and successfully toppled Mobutu's 32-year dictatorship in 1997. Shortly after taking power, Laurent-Désiré Kabila, the ADFCL's spokesperson, opted for a strict governance style that upset his foreign allies

engaged in the illegal trafficking of minerals, including gold, diamonds, and coltan, among others. As tensions between the ADFCL and its allies increased, President Laurent Kabila cut ties with Rwandan and Ugandan troops in July 1998. The immediate effect of this breach of relations was the renewal of hostilities in the Kivu provinces. After a military stalemate, a peace process was initiated but quickly stalled due to heightened suspicion and a lack of political will from all parties. Rwanda and Uganda both backed subsequent rebellions in the DRC, and foreign fighters returned to embed themselves in local conflicts leading up to DRC's 2018 elections.<sup>11</sup>

The geopolitical context in the Great Lakes remains in flux. In Burundi, power transferred in 2020 from long-serving President Pierre Nkurunziza to Évariste Ndayishimiye, both from the same ethnically Hutu political party, without significant violence or unrest. In the DRC, President Félix Tshisekedi has struggled to consolidate power at the central level, while violence in the country's restive eastern provinces continues to escalate. Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, in power since 1986, faces mounting internal challenges from a younger generation mobilising against growing authoritarianism. Tensions among the countries of the region are intensifying; Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda allegedly back insurgents based in the eastern DRC. Rwandan President Paul Kagame accuses Burundi and Uganda of supporting Rwandan rebels active in North and South Kivu; in turn, Burundi and Uganda assert that Rwanda supports Burundian and Ugandan rebels in the DRC. Tshisekedi has publicly floated plans to invite these countries into the DRC to conduct joint military operations against insurgents that they respectively oppose. Militarisation or closure of borders has become commonplace. A new proxy struggle could further destabilise the DRC or provoke a large-scale regional security crisis.<sup>12</sup>

Protracted conflicts in the DRC are estimated to have caused the death of over eight million people. The first wave of Congo conflicts, which began in September 1996 and ended in May 1997, was described as a "war of liberation" by the Alliance de Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Congo (AFDL). This war ended the Mobutu dictatorship, which had lasted 32 years, and saw Laurent Désiré Kabila take over as president. The second phase started in August 1998 and ended in April 2003 with the signing of the Comprehensive and Inclusive Agreement on Inter-Congolese Dialogue and the establishment of institutions to lead the country's political transition – with President Joseph Kabila as the leader of the transitional Government. In 2006, shrouded with residues of militia activities mainly in the East, the DRC held its first democratic elections, which kept President Joseph

11 See this for more information: International Crisis Group. *Averting Proxy Wars in the Eastern DR Congo and Great Lakes*. Crisis Group Africa Briefing no 150 (January 2020): [https://d2071andvip0wj.cloudfront.net/b150-averting-proxy-wars\\_0.pdf](https://d2071andvip0wj.cloudfront.net/b150-averting-proxy-wars_0.pdf).

12 Idem.



Kabila at the helm of the country. After 14 years in power, which were characterised by intensified hostilities and grave human rights violations in the East, and a general climate of political oppression, President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi came to power in January 2019.<sup>13</sup>

## Demographics

Burundi, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are culturally, linguistically, historically, and politically distinct. Yet all three countries are characterised by unresponsive, unaccountable institutions that largely fail to deliver security, justice, and basic services to people. This chronic fragility is most evident in the region's borderlands, peripheral spaces that tend to become sites of cross-border or subnational conflict due to their physical remoteness and weak state presence.<sup>14</sup> The borderlands of the Great Lakes have long been synonymous with economic, social, and political marginalisation. High levels of poverty are entrenched in the Great Lakes (despite the existence of natural resource wealth and some of the world's most dynamic economies) and are concentrated in the borderlands. For most communities, opportunities are limited and both public and private investments are minimal. Trade across borders represents a vital source of income, but most activity is informal, operating outside state regulation. The state's weak security apparatus is an often-cited cause of violence, but heavy-handed state interventions that view the borderlands through the prism of securitisation have exacerbated instability and a sense of local marginalisation. Borders and surrounding borderlands are growing increasingly militarised.

The population of the Great Lakes is rapidly growing, and young, with median ages ranging from 16.3 in Uganda to 17.3 in Burundi.<sup>15</sup> Most youth in the region are either unemployed or in highly precarious employment. The effect of COVID-19 has showcased this fragility, with young people losing access to livelihoods due to mobility restrictions and lockdowns. None of the countries in the region produces jobs quickly enough to accommodate the expanding workforce. Beyond that, high rates of economic exclusion may increase young people's susceptibility to illicit or violent livelihoods, especially in borderland contexts marked by local grievances. Young people are also widely excluded from political power, with limited access to the patronage networks that regulate access to scarce public services and rents. Due to traditionally conservative gender norms and systematic gender-based

exclusion, young women are at an acute disadvantage in Great Lakes societies. They struggle to integrate into labour markets and face widespread insecurity and injustice as a result of sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) and legal discrimination. Altogether, these exclusionary arrangements erode the willingness of young people to trust and cooperate with the state, with negative impacts on the social contract as well as national, and by extension regional, stability.

## The Borderlands of Burundi, Uganda, and the DRC

Youth in borderland communities experience multiple forms of exclusion – one is the structural and psychological exclusion deeply rooted in reciprocal mistrust between young people and their governments, which is amplified by the peripherality of their communities.<sup>16</sup> These challenges are especially acute for refugee and IDP youth, who are largely concentrated in the borderlands. The Great Lakes was one of the world's main sites of displacement in 2020.<sup>17</sup> Refugee camps and informal settlements located in the region's borderlands shape the economy in significant ways by creating market opportunities and attracting development and humanitarian resources. However, this can also trigger competition between displaced people and other residents, leading to environmental degradation, and changes in livelihood patterns. A large borderland youth cohort is demanding improved social services, livelihood opportunities, and participation in governance, to which most institutions in the region lack the capacity to respond to effectively.

Borderlands are often volatile, but they are also where regional interdependence is deepest and most visible. Borderlands are sites of encounter between communities divided by national boundaries but connected by routine cross-border mobility, mixed migration flows, ties of family and identity, and management of common risks, such as food insecurity, environmental degradation, and climate change vulnerability. The region's porous borders have long allowed communities to establish livelihoods regardless of international demarcations. Local commerce and pastoralism rely on the easy movement of people and goods within and across borders and continue to heavily rely on transnational ethnic affiliations. These are zones of potential with opportunities to build shared resilience. Increasing stability and improving the welfare of people in the borderlands, especially young people,

13 Idem.

14 see, for example, Conciliation Resources 2018; OECD 2015.

15 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). World Population Ageing 2020 Highlights: Living arrangements of older persons: [https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesa\\_pd-2020\\_world\\_population\\_ageing\\_highlights.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesa_pd-2020_world_population_ageing_highlights.pdf).

16 As for example identified in the *Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (2018).

17 DRC is the source of more than 800 000 refugees in neighbouring countries, and Burundi of some 330 000 refugees; Uganda alone hosts 1.4m refugees, including from Burundi and DRC, making it one of the world's top 5 host countries (UNHCR 2020). IDPs displaced by conflict-related violence total 5.5m in DRC, 32 000 in Uganda, and 23 000 in Burundi (IDMC 2020).

requires a fresh approach unconstrained by international boundaries. An infrastructure of bilateral, regional, and multilateral initiatives has evolved in response to the need for collaboration. Chief amongst these is the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the ICGLR's Regional Programme of Action on Peace and Security, and the respective National Coordination Mechanisms in Uganda, Burundi, and the DRC.

**Findings**

In the ICGLR, the Great Lakes region consists of countries located in east and central Africa – namely Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), South Sudan, Kenya and Sudan. For this research, data has been collected from the borderlands of Burundi, DRC and Uganda. With a long history of intertwined conflict in the region, it is important to look at the context of each country in order to better understand the significance of findings and recommendations.

While there are clear differences in the modalities of youth participation in peacebuilding processes and the types of challenges faced by youth in each of the countries, there are also commonalities relevant for the research. For example, youth in all three countries face high unemployment and are often vulnerable to political manipulation, particularly in times of elections. Around the border regions, youth are at risk of being lured by illegal businesses as carriers of unlawful goods, including guns and drugs. This in turn leads to the stigmatisation of youth as being criminal, which may have adverse

ramifications in policy propositions by reducing national and regional attention to supporting youth development overall. Another important commonality shared by youth in the three countries is the effect of deep-seated patriarchy on gender dynamics between men and women, even in peacebuilding initiatives. In all three countries, women are marginalised in decision-making processes and their inputs are not given equal weight as men's. One young woman who was interviewed in Burundi noted that despite having access to the local decision-making processes, she was still ignored by her male counterparts. However, the research makes evident that for all the shared challenges, youth in the borderland region exhibit resiliency are committed to contributing to their peacebuilding work.

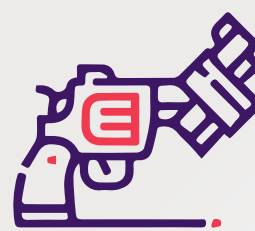
Despite the efforts made by different stakeholders, the countless contributions of African youth to peace and security are still, for the most part, invisible, underestimated and undocumented, while the instigation of violence by youth has been one of the main points of focus consistently. The research conducted across the borders of the DRC, Burundi, and Uganda aimed to assess whether the YPS agenda is known as a tool for peacebuilding and advocacy at the local level and, if so, capture how the pillars of the YPS agenda are implemented in each context. The research questions are listed under Annex 2.



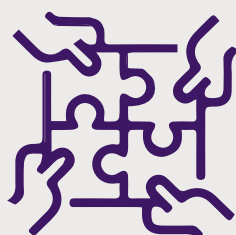
**PARTICIPATION**



**PROTECTION**



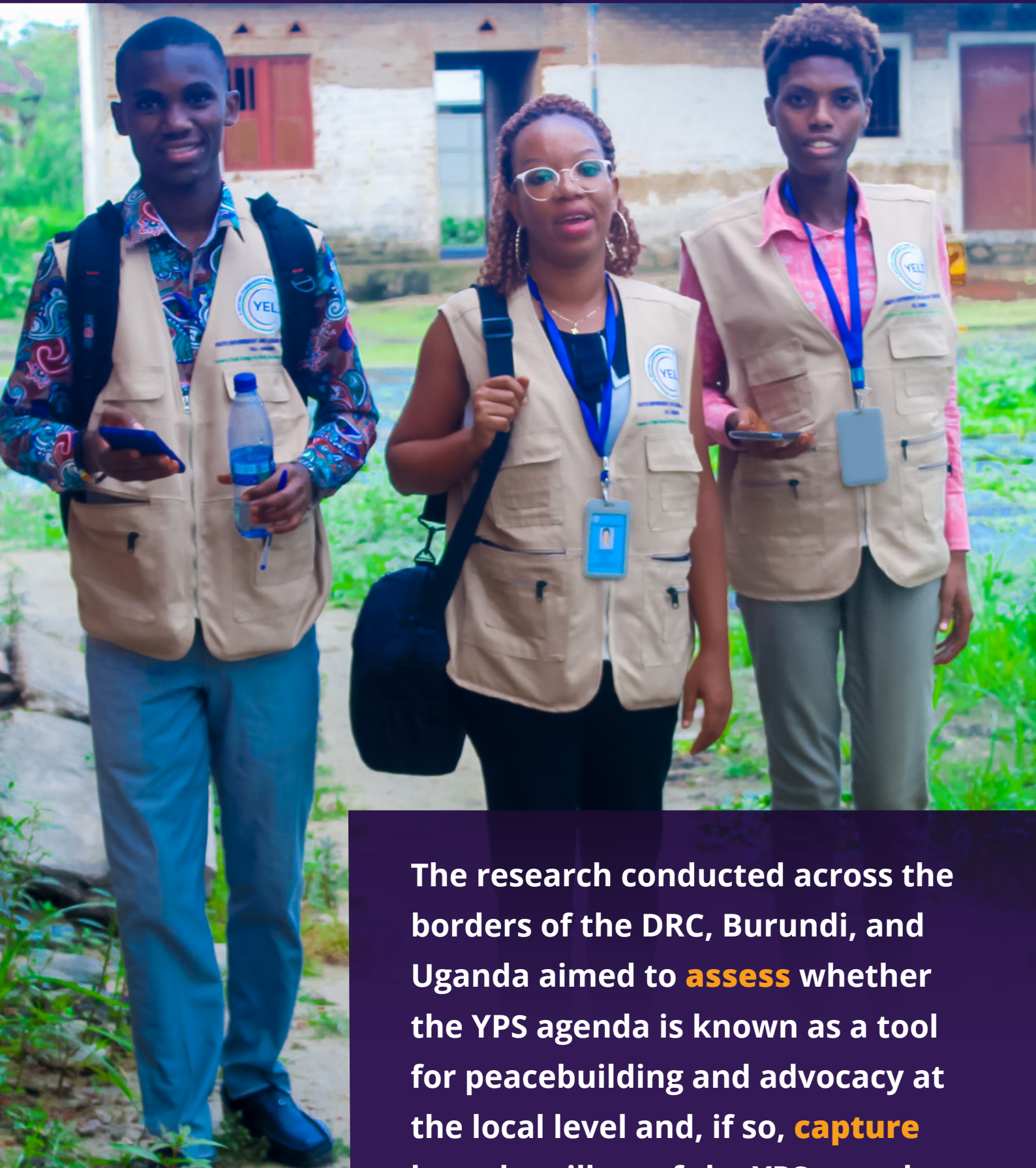
**PREVENTION**



**PARTNERSHIP**



**DISENGAGEMENT & REINTEGRATION**



The research conducted across the borders of the DRC, Burundi, and Uganda aimed to **assess** whether the YPS agenda is known as a tool for peacebuilding and advocacy at the local level and, if so, **capture** how the pillars of the YPS agenda are implemented in each context.



# UGANDA

While direct hostilities deescalated following the signing of a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army in 2006, under the mediation of the Government of South Sudan, Uganda's long-standing political and economic tensions permeate every layer of the society. Compounding this fragile context, the spillage of the ongoing civil war in South Sudan presents new challenges for social harmony and peace among the Ugandan refugee settlements. For example, the December 2013 conflict in South Sudan pitched youth against each other along tribal lines, which escalated the war to their areas of refuge in Adjumani, Moyo, Yumbe, Terego and Madi Okollo districts in Uganda. These violent youth groups fought several times between 2013 and 2021 as a result of the tribal nature of South Sudan's conflict. Worse still, incidences of border unrest emerged between Ugandans and South Sudanese, and between Congolese and South Sudanese. In September 2014, a conflict erupted between South Sudanese and Ugandans in the borderlands of Kajojeji County, South Sudan and Moyo District, Uganda. As a result, several people lost their lives and property, a larger number endured serious injuries and thousands abandoned their homes.<sup>18</sup>

The research in this region particularly aimed to understand the contributions of South Sudanese young peacebuilders in mediating and addressing these challenges given their role and access to different communities in this context. The Uganda team was composed of three young researchers based in refugee settlements (one young woman and two young men).

## Identified Challenges

The key obstacles young people face when engaging in peace and security in Uganda, especially within refugee settlements, are political disparities, educational differences, limited financial resources, and cultural diversities. As part of the refugee population in settlements, many South Sudanese youth who were born during the liberation struggle have never received an elementary education, which has negatively affected their absorption

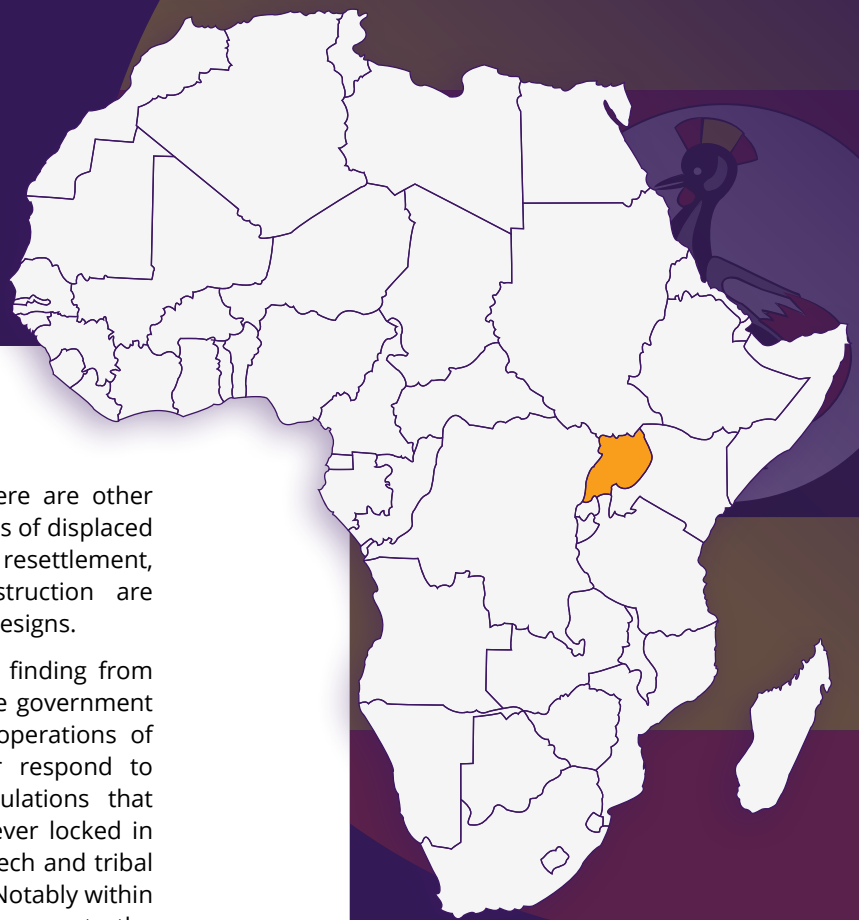
of mainstream and international strategies that promote the implementation of the Youth Peace and Security Agenda. Traditional workshops and capacity development sessions, even utilising non-formal education, often require basic literacy. Politically, South Sudanese youth are inclined towards tribal politics that do not promote a national agenda. Thus, they mostly support narratives that tribes compete against each other. These challenges are specifically narrowed to the refugee settlements in Uganda that host South Sudanese youth refugees. This is an addition to the obstacles that youth share with other parts of the African continent, such as unemployment and limited access to decision-making processes.

In refugee settlements of the borderlands on Uganda's side, the pillars of participation and partnerships are implemented with the leadership of youth and the vision of building peaceful and cohesive communities. The pillar of prevention is heavily and unevenly endorsed by authorities and institutions, who are encouraging young people to conduct violence prevention activities and monitor their communities for radicalisation.

Under participation, the research found out that there is a notable effort to increase the inclusive representation of youth at different levels of leadership as a springboard for their involvement in decision-making. In refugee settlements, Secretaries for Youth Affairs or youth representatives form part of refugee welfare committees that oversee the welfare of displaced persons. Young people, especially from refugee backgrounds, aspire to participate in decision-making around peace and security for their regions as well as national decisions through taking political positions and advocacy during youth day celebrations.

Governments and partners focus on supporting local youth initiatives that are aimed at conflict prevention and resolution by aiding violence prevention activities and promotion of social cohesion. Refugee-led organisations that promote peaceful coexistence are supported by the government and various agencies, making partnerships with refugee youth more significantly traceable when it

18 Leonardi, Cherry, and Santschi, Martina. *Dividing Communities in South Sudan and Northern Uganda: Boundary disputes and land governance*, Rift Valley Institute (RVI) (2016): <https://riftvalley.net/publication/dividing-communities-south-sudan-and-northern-uganda>.



comes to certain topics. Furthermore, there are other significant avenues through which the needs of displaced youth surface, linked to repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration, and reconstruction are assessed and incorporated during project designs.

With regards to prevention, an important finding from the research is that the refugee arm of the government (Office of the Prime Minister) endorses operations of youth-led initiatives that prevent and/or respond to violent actions in the settlements. Populations that escaped the conflict in South Sudan are ever locked in suspicious living characterised by hate speech and tribal groupings as reported through interviews. Notably within the refugee community, the government supports the efforts of partners in preventing violence through the social and economic development approach in fostering youth education, providing vocational training and youth employment opportunities, and promoting youth entrepreneurship and constructive political engagement. Under partnerships, young people partner with other youth, local communities, and non-governmental actors in countering violence by designing joint peacebuilding initiatives, such as the Peace Jam.<sup>19</sup>

However, as is often seen, the strong influence from institutions often tampers with the agency of youth to address prevention conditions and factors leading to the rise of radicalisation to violence and violent extremism. A 35-year-old participant from the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, who has a long history of being active in civil society, noted the relationship between youth and institutions: “youth contribution to peace and security is [actually] not significant. The way we, [youth] make men powerful and strong in Africa and the Great Lakes Region [causes them] to have all the justice in their hands. For us, we remain powerless and without any justice [...]. If you do not have power, you don't have a voice, which means you are going to be commanded and follow orders. This is what is happening now.”

In May 2021, following growing insecurity concerns and

<sup>19</sup> For more information about Peace Jam see: <https://greatlakespeace.org/projects/peace-jam-uganda-project/#:-:text=Award%2DWinning%20Education%20Program%20%26%20Conferences,of%20local%20and%20global%20problems>



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

gross human rights violations due to militia activities in eastern Congo, the DRC President declared a state of siege in the Inure and North Kivu provinces along the border with Rwanda and Uganda. This was aimed at providing a definitive military solution to peace challenges in the region. The recent renewal of the M23 insurgency has intensified tensions between the Congolese and Rwandan Governments – reviving old sentiments of suspicion and mistrust, especially towards youth of Rwandan descent in the DRC, which could be used by opportunists politicians to fuel further violence among youth towards Congolese youth of Rwandan descent. The conflict has also intensified the humanitarian crisis with thousands of families displaced to Uganda through the Bunagana border. The volatile security conditions in the border regions of the Great Lakes are a permanent challenge for regional peacebuilding and stability and are indicative of the necessity to meaningfully involve youth in these regions, as they are the primary targets of armed activities.

The main aim of the research in the DRC context sought to understand the level of implementation of UNSCR 2250 and other regional policies that advance youth participation in peacebuilding processes. Additionally, researchers sought to understand ways in which youth are involved in addressing cross-border conflicts in

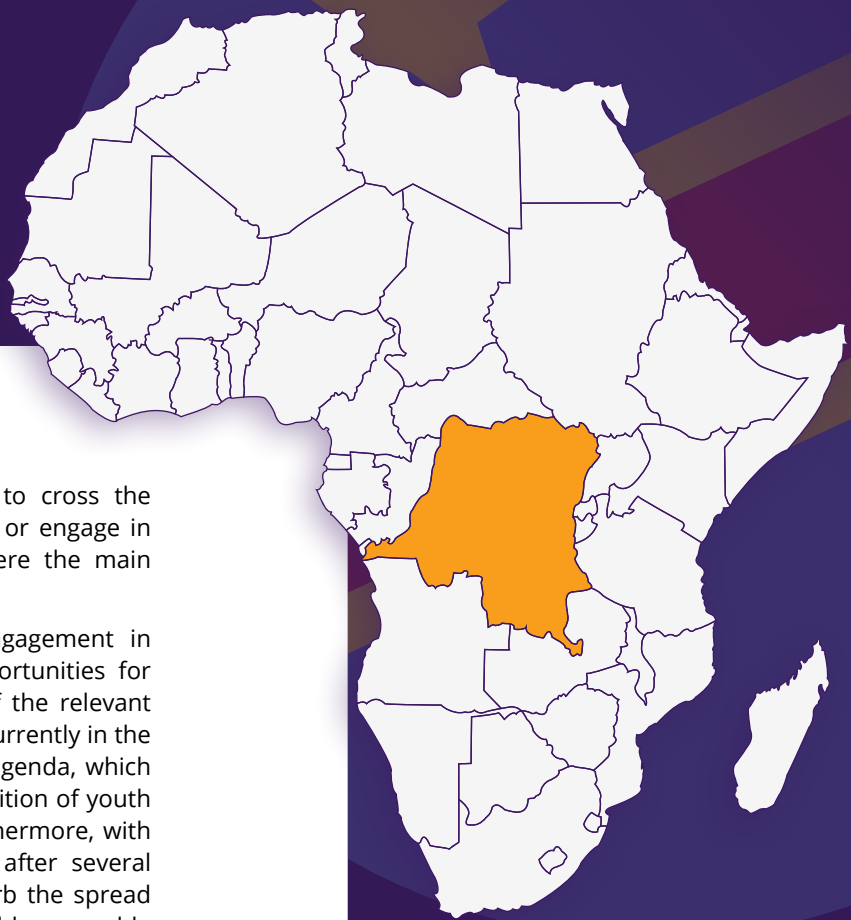
Bunagana (DRC-Uganda) and Gatumba (DRC-Burundi). The DRC team was composed of three young researchers (one young woman and two young men).

## Identified Challenges

There are several obstacles that young people face when engaging in peace and security in the borderlands regions, including the lack of financial support for youth-led peacebuilding initiatives, insecurity, unemployment, and the lack of a national action plan and strategies to advance youth participation in peacebuilding processes.

Respondents also highlighted that the lack of knowledge among young people about the YPS agenda limits youth's ability to use it as an advocacy framework to demand great national and regional support for youth-led peacebuilding efforts in the borderlands regions. While several of these challenges are applicable for youth-led peacebuilding initiatives in other contexts, the volatility of the security situation – worsened by the state of siege in North Kivu created a significant impediment to youth participation in peacebuilding efforts in Bunagana (DRC-Uganda border). Due to the direct combats happening in this area, youth would be risking their lives and physical integrity if they chose to participate in peacebuilding activities that would take place in open fire and violent atmospheres. Added to this challenge, during the pandemic, young





people in the borderlands were unable to cross the border and engage in peacebuilding work or engage in cross-border business activities, which were the main source of livelihood.

While there are challenges to youth engagement in peacebuilding efforts, there are also opportunities for youth-led peacebuilding initiatives. One of the relevant findings of the research is that the DRC is currently in the process of developing a NAP for the YPS agenda, which will provide formal and institutional recognition of youth participation in peacebuilding efforts. Furthermore, with the opening of the Burundi-DRC border after several months of closing as part of efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, youth peacebuilders are able to resume their activities, gaining access to cross-border communities for consultation.

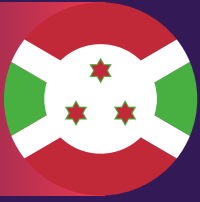
Conflict prevention and resolution are more sustainable when youth perspectives are prioritised. Unfortunately, youth peacebuilders remain excluded from the decision-making process around peace and security in the borderlands regions. To be relevant to youth in the borderlands, participants insisted that the implementation of the YPS agenda through NAP in the DRC will need to foster more recognition and inclusion by political actors of youth peacebuilders in decision-making concerning the borderlands regions. The research also found out that to date, none of the YPS pillars are adequately implemented in the borderlands region. Respondents in Bunagana noted that, apart from one awareness workshop on the YPS agenda that was conducted by a local organisation called RESOLVEE, there have not been any other efforts to raise public awareness of the YPS agenda in this border region. Therefore, the agenda's implementation in this area is still embryonic and requires institutional support to materialise – which is also the case in the Gatumba area, along the border with Burundi.



*It is often said that there is no development without peace. What I can ask of the government is to ensure security and we young people will carry out our various activities in peace.*

*Young female participant from Chengerero, DRC*





# BURUNDI

Since acquiring independence in 1962 from the Belgian colony Ruanda-Urundi, Burundi has experienced a wave of violent conflicts in 1965, 1969, 1972, 1988, and from 1993 to 2003. These political conflicts were largely motivated by ethnic tensions and claimed more than 300,000 lives, displacing over one million people between 1993 and 2003. Not only did these cycles of violence decimate social cohesion and trust among Burundians, but they also destroyed the economy and perpetuated a culture of violence in society. After a period of relative political stability and economic growth, youth have contributed to mending the social fabric through peacebuilding initiatives at communal levels. However, throughout the various episodes of the Burundi conflicts, youth have also been instrumentalised by politicians to instigate violence.

The main socio-economic activities for youth in this border region include small-scale trade in food and clothing and large-scale trade in beer and sugar. Family ties bind border communities together, and cross-border social activities, such as soccer games, were commonplace before the COVID-19 pandemic.

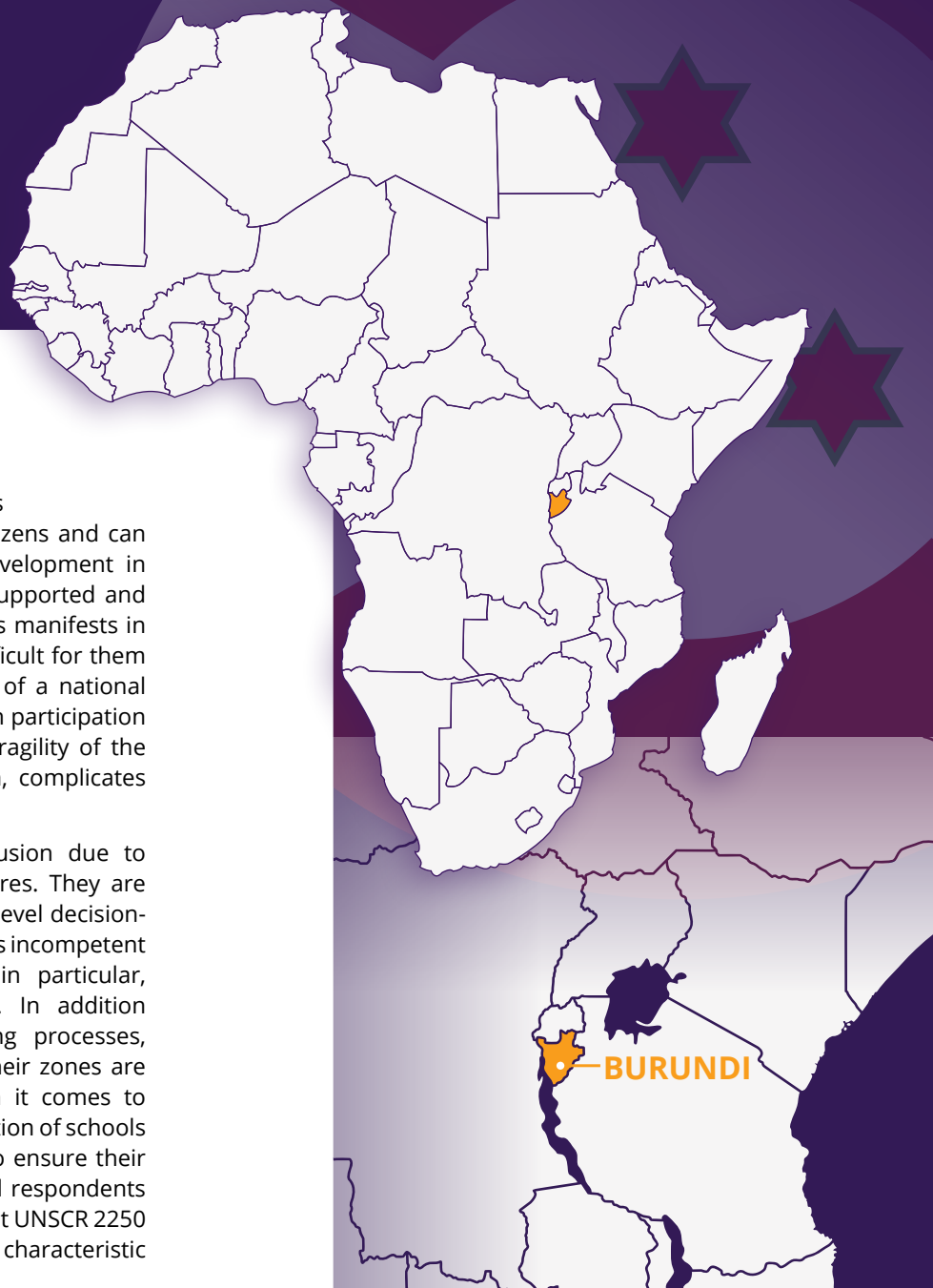
The research's main objective was to highlight and amplify Burundian youth's positive contributions to peacebuilding around the border area with the DRC. The work was conducted by a group of three young researchers in the provinces of Bubanza and Bujumbura in the communes of Gihanga and Mutimbuzi. The Burundi team was composed of three young researchers (one young woman and two young men).

## Identified Challenges

Some of the key challenges that researchers identified as inhibiting youth participation in peacebuilding processes in the borderlands of DRC include high unemployment, poverty, and negative stereotypes, like that young people are incapable of providing inputs to peace processes. Respondents underscored that due to a lack of meaningful employment opportunities, youth from rural settings migrate to Bujumbura and others illegally cross to the DRC in search of employment opportunities. These mobilities have roots in nurturing livelihoods for youth and their families, therefore, they may become a priority over other peacebuilding or community development activities that do not generate income.







Pushing back against the negative stereotypes against youth, respondents also emphasised that they are capable citizens and can meaningfully contribute to peace and development in the borderlands if they were sufficiently supported and trained. Youth's perceived lack of capacities manifests in low self-esteem, which in turn makes it difficult for them to lead peacebuilding initiatives. The lack of a national institutional framework that supports youth participation in peacebuilding work, coupled with the fragility of the security context in this borderland region, complicates youth participation in peacebuilding.

Young people are often victims of exclusion due to negative stereotyping and societal structures. They are excluded from participating in community-level decision-making bodies because they are perceived as incompetent by elders. Single young peacebuilders, in particular, are marginalised because of patriarchy. In addition to being marginalised in decision-making processes, some respondents also highlighted that their zones are equally marginalised and forgotten when it comes to development projects, such as the construction of schools and hospitals, which push young people to ensure their survival through illegal activities. Almost all respondents also mentioned that they did not know about UNSCR 2250 nor about the YPS agenda, which is a shared characteristic among participants in the research.

Despite the challenges of youth participation in peacebuilding processes, respondents also mentioned opportunities to contribute to peacebuilding and development in the borderlands, including through youth-managed micro-credit cooperatives and sports. Such activities foster a sense of cohesion and coexistence among different ethnic groups, and they strengthen trust relationships among young people in an organic manner.



*Let them trust us at least by appointing us to the position of village mayors.*

*27-year-old male participant  
from Gatumba, Burundi*



## CONCLUSION

In their traversal of borderlands, young peacebuilders in Uganda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo share commonalities despite their differing nationalities, ethnicities, communities, or walks of life. The insecure nature of the borderlands of the Great Lakes serves as a permanent challenge for regional peacebuilding – particularly as these regions are deprived of institutional attention, be it from their national governments or international bodies. Local peacebuilders – particularly youth who make up the majority of the population in many areas and are often directly affected by armed violence – find themselves in a unique circumstance that warrants more specialised, local action.

Local and national transformations are necessary to overcome the challenges shared by local youth peacebuilders in this research and beyond, nevertheless, entities such as the African Union, ICGLR and INGOs that are active across these countries can benefit greatly from the participation and strong potential of the youth in borderlands of the Great Lakes. Co-designing and transnational implementation of cross-border programmes can facilitate exchange among youth and local authorities through creating partnerships and conflict prevention strategies. Similar opportunities can also be taken by institutions and donors such as the UN, the EU, various embassies and philanthropists to focus on flexible and regional funding mechanisms with priority streams for applicant groups featuring the meaningful engagement and ownership of youth-led organizations across the borderlands.

In addition, given the strategic position of the borderlands that comes with its own vulnerabilities, maintaining a locally driven do no harm approach with a strong focus on the protection of young people becomes even more crucial as indicated as a pillar of the UNSCR 2250. In the following section you will find specific recommendations for various actors invested in peacebuilding in the region that have come as a result of the findings of this research paper.



## RECOMMENDATIONS - UGANDA



INGOs / Donors	CSOs and Youth-led Initiatives	International Community / UN
<p>Invest in training in enterprises that are market-driven to improve youth and community livelihoods.</p> <p>Together with youth, co-create community platforms where youth can advocate for peace during their forums.</p> <p>Provide scholarships to marginalised youth and finance education projects to promote literacy and skill-building in collaboration with local authorities.</p> <p>Consider mental health and protection as priorities for youth across their projects and programming.</p>	<p>Partners can provide psychosocial support to youth so that they have sound mental health.</p> <p>Community awareness creation using information and communication materials such as signposts and banners with messages of peace, radios or speakers during road drives.</p> <p>Develop projects that can benefit youth and involve youth in the design and implementation process of the projects for sustainability and ownership.</p> <p>Volunteer to work or help when there is a concern that arises in terms of security, like theft issues, domestic violence and following up with these cases.</p> <p>Creating projects that engage residents in a healthy way and fights drug abuse, and idleness and create hope.</p>	<p>Focus more on livelihood intervention that can generate income for youth and fully involve them in all stages of the programming.</p> <p>More awareness creation to be done on peace promotion, non-violent actions, and resolving issues non-violently.</p>
Local Authorities of Borderlands	National Level	Regional Level / Africa
<p>Openness for youth to meet regularly with local governments to solve issues that affect youth.</p> <p>Opportunities to get loans for setting up businesses.</p> <p>Create community dialogues among communities to address issues of peace and security.</p> <p>Local authorities such as Local councils (LCs) and Refugee welfare councils (RWCs) should work together when it comes to issues of peace and security as a sign of working together for peaceful co-existence.</p>	<p>Create peacebuilding projects at the National level.</p> <p>Together with CSOs, raise awareness on the danger and consequences of issues relevant to structural injustices rooted in discrimination and limited access to resources.</p> <p>Bring equal opportunities to all residents, regardless of their immigration and citizenship status.</p> <p>Provide necessary training with employment prospects for all residents and particularly for youth in marginalised regions.</p> <p>Create legal frameworks to prevent increased criminal insecurity concerns while also promoting community welfare.</p> <p>Support and organise peer education on peacebuilding to promote peace and security.</p> <p>Freely associate with the people in the country to understand them including what needs the attention of the government.</p> <p>Work with the people and youth not work for the people and youth</p>	<p>Regional bodies can explore opportunities for focus group discussions where they can sit with youth and openly share or discuss issues that affect youth, especially from marginalised groups.</p> <p>Pilot a platform for refugee youth and displaced youth from the ICGLR region to discuss cross-cutting issues between displacement and peace and security.</p>

# RECOMMENDATIONS - DRC



INGOs / Donors	CSOs and Youth-led Initiatives	International Community / UN
<p>Support the actions and initiatives of young people including but not limited to active communication comprised of meetings, joint leadership initiatives, consultations, partnerships, following up and financing their work.</p> <p>To equip young people with the necessary means in their peacebuilding initiatives and the popularisation of the YPS agenda throughout the region.</p> <p>Organise workshops and training on the YPS and youth inclusion involving all communities including the most marginalised so that they have in-depth knowledge of the YPS agenda, especially in the borderlands.</p>	<p>Design and propose projects to potential donors bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds to find moments of exchange of experiences and knowledge.</p>	<p>Put in place the necessary means for the promotion of resolution 2250 as an effective and essential tool for the participation of young people in the peace processes.</p> <p>Organise training for politico-administrative and military authorities on resolution 2250 because many of them do not know the relevance of this tool.</p>
Local Authorities of Borderlands		Regional Level / Africa
<p>Ensure the legal inclusion of young people in the process of restoring peace and transitional justice.</p> <p>Develop strategies to include youth when it comes to implementing sustainable development goals and peace, as such as the responsibility of local and national authorities.</p> <p>Forge close collaborative ties with youth organisations regardless of tribe and ethnicity in order to identify and tackle the root causes of conflicts in border areas.</p> <p>Support youth in the fairest and most sustainable manner in their activities to promote and consolidate peace.</p>		<p>ICGLR to formalise a decree or legal coverage facilitating young people from the region of the GLR to meet and have permanent dialogue.</p> <p>ICGLR to create a centre for permanent cross-border dialogue allowing young people to meet to discuss issues: pacification, conflict resolution, social cohesion, entrepreneurship and cross-border trade and peacebuilding.</p>



## RECOMMENDATIONS - BURUNDI



INGOs / Donors	CSOs and Youth-led Initiatives	International Community / UN
<p>Maintain close and constant relations with youth-led organisations and encourage their work.</p> <p>Invest in Parent-Child dialogue programmes to manage conflicts.</p> <p>Invest in the creation of vocational centres and entrepreneurship systems that support youth in gaining skills and professions that bring livelihoods (through doing an analysis of the market and needs).</p>	<p>Organise capacity development programmes for youth active in civil society to refine their skills in planning and project management for peacebuilding.</p> <p>Increase the number and scope of peacebuilding activities.</p> <p>Raise awareness on the YPS agenda.</p> <p>Co-create games and activities for all ages for learning more about peacebuilding</p>	<p>Develop advocacy strategies to influence National Authorities to prioritise the implementation of the YPS agenda.</p> <p>Highlight the successes in the implementation of the YPS agenda by shedding the spotlight on youth projects.</p> <p>Raise awareness on the YPS agenda, focusing on CSOs and the local and national bodies</p>
Local Authorities of Borderlands	National Level	Regional Level / Africa
<p>Increase the knowledge and skills of staff on the YPS agenda and the support they can provide to youth for the implementation of the agenda in consultation with them.</p> <p>Support the work of young people in the implementation of the YPS agenda.</p> <p>Creation of vocational centres and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth that helps them become financially independent according to the needs of the market.</p>	<p>Establish a policy of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the YPS agenda at the national and subnational level.</p> <p>Create equal opportunities to have youth representatives from across the country, including the borderlands zone, to represent their peers in ministries and institutions, especially those who work on youth - but also others, in order to avoid siloing and nepotism.</p> <p>Promote the implementation of the YPS and WPS agenda integrating them.</p> <p>Multiply social and financial cooperatives and monitor their performances</p> <p>Ensure the smooth and effective operation of youth centres in all municipalities of the country</p>	<p>Encourage members of the African Union to focus on creating opportunities for youth and investing in youth from borderlands regions through the implementation of all pillars of the YPS agenda.</p> <p>Define policies and frameworks for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the YPS agenda.</p> <p>Develop an official African Union and/or ICGLR platform for youth across different countries to exchange on YPS.</p>

# ANNEX 1 - TABLES

## BURUNDI

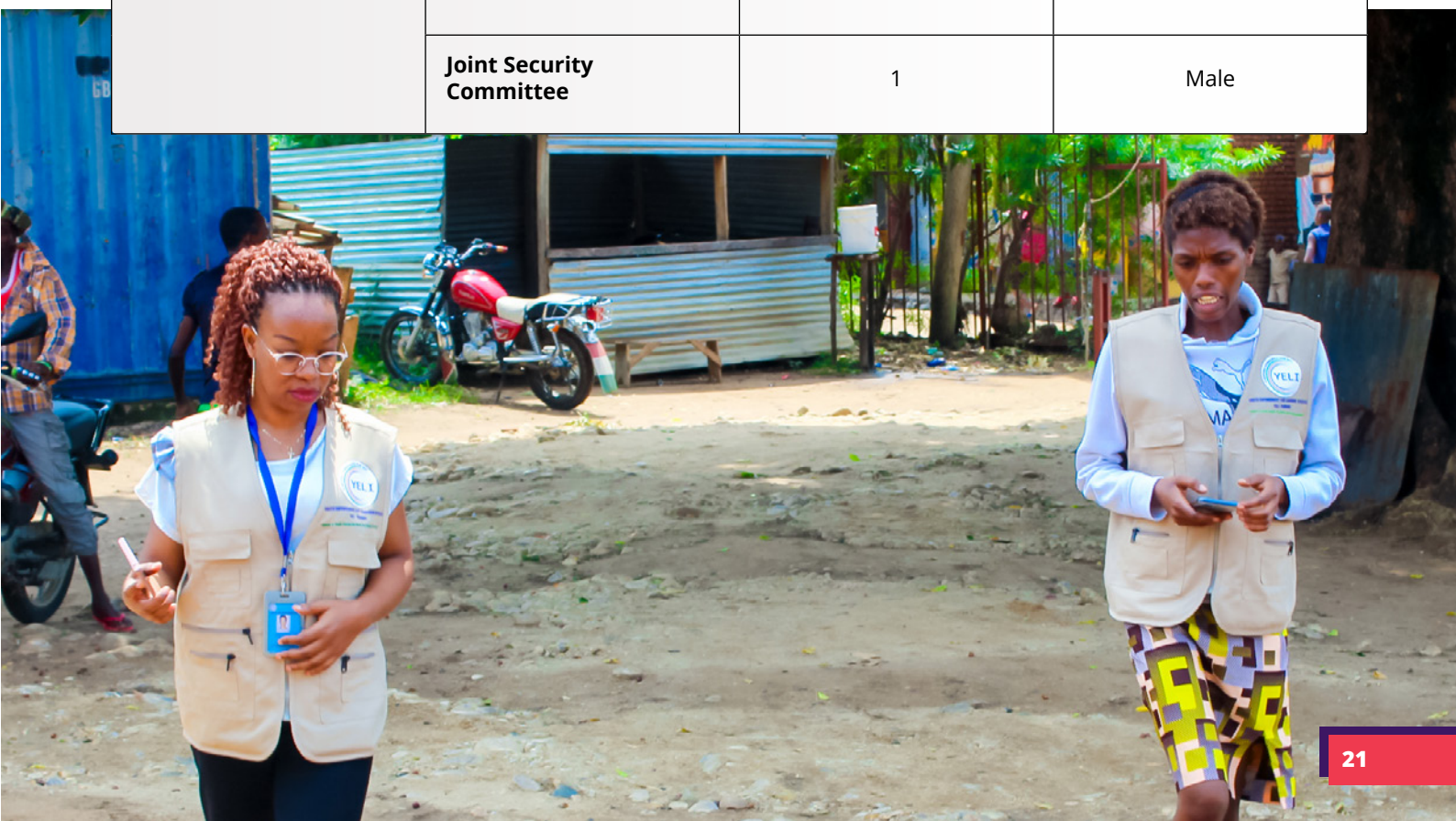


### Number of Participants Per Region

Region	Zone	Focus Group Discussions with Entity Representatives				Focus Group Discussions with Youth	
		M		F		M	F
		ADULT	YOUTH	ADULT	YOUTH		
MUTIMBUZI	Rubirizi	1	3	1	7	5	5
	Maramvya	2	3	-	6	4	3
	Gatumba	4	3	3	1	6	6
	Rukaramu	3	3	4	1	5	5
GIHANGA	Gihanga	2	4	8	1	8	5
	Buringa	2	5	4	4	9	6
SUBTOTAL		14	21	20	20	37	30
TOTAL		75				67	
TOTAL - Women over 35 years old						14	
TOTAL - Men over 35 years old						20	
TOTAL - Women under 35 years old						50	
TOTAL - Men under 35 years old						58	
TOTAL - Youth						108	
TOTAL						142	

## Adult Participants reached based on their representation

Institutions	Representation	Number	Gender
Religion	Islam	1	Male
	Catholicism	1	Female
	Pentecost	1	Female
	Fecabu	1	Female
Administration locale	Chief of zone	1	Male
	Chief of hills	2	Male/Female
Autres	Community leaders	2	Male/Female
	Elders	1	Male
	Community animators	1	Female
	Joint Security Committee	1	Male



# ANNEX 1 - TABLES

## UGANDA



### 1.1 Number and names of regions/villages/settlements of the field research

The research team conducted the field research and interviews in five zones consisting of 15 villages of Rhino Camp refugee settlements located in Terego and Madi Okollo districts, and two District outside Rhino Camp in West Nile Sub-region of Uganda were Reached as indicated in the table below.

S/N	Name of Zones/Other Districts Outside Rhino Camp	Name of villages	Number of interviews Conducted	Number of focus group discussions
1.0	Ocea Zone	Ocea A,B,C, Katiku I,II,III	20 (5F & 15M) and KII = 3 (1F & 2M)	One FGD with 11 Participants (5F&6M)
2.0	Siripi Zone	Ariwa I,II,III Ariaze and Ngurua	11(6F& 5M)	Two FGDs with 20 Participants (3F&17M)
3.0	Koboko District	Koboko	KII=1 Male	N/A
4.0	Odubo Zone	Wanyange A & Yelulu	N/A	Two FGDs with 22 Participants (13F&9M)
5.0	Kiryandpongo District	Bweyale	KII =1Female	N/A
6.0	Omungo Zone	Omugo 4 & 6	KII =1 male	Two FGDs Conducted with 20 Participants (10F&9M)
7.0	Tika Zone	Tika 4	N/A	One FGD Conducted 11 (08F&3M).
8.0	Arua City	Ceford, Airfield and Arua Hill	KII = 3 (1F&2M)	N/A



## 1.2 Number of interviews and focus group discussions and number of people and their stakeholder groups in the focus group discussions and interviews

The number of interviews and focus group discussions conducted in the Five Zones of 15 Villages in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement and 2 Districts outside the Settlement including the stakeholders and their gender is clearly shown in the table below.

Category	Number of people			Stakeholders that participated
	Male	Female	Total	
Individual Interviews	20	11	31	Youth, young traders
Key informant interviews	06	03	09	Founders of refugee youth-led organisations, NGOs, Private Company representatives
Focus group discussion	45	39	84	Youth, refugee welfare committee youth representatives,
<b>Total</b>	71	53	124	

## 1.3 The number of interviews in each language

Category	Language	Frequency
Interview	English	28
	Simple Arabic	02
	Nuer	04
	Bari	06

# ANNEX 1 - TABLES

## The DRC



Breakdown of all research participants based on age

Age	Individuals
18-25 years old	35
25-35 years old	106
35-45 years old	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

Breakdown of all research participants based on gender

Gender	Individuals
Male	96
Female	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

### Data by Region

Individuals		Region		
		Bunagana	Uvira	Bukavu
Gender	Male	26	32	38
	Female	24	18	12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
Age	18-25 years old	10	13	12
	25-35 years old	39	33	34
	35-45 years old	1	4	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

## ANNEX 2 - RESEARCH QUESTIONS

### Burundi



- As young people living in the border region, what challenges have you encountered in peacebuilding?
- What actions do you take in terms of peacebuilding work?
- Are young people represented in decision-making bodies?
- Are you familiar with the YPS agenda and UNSCR 2250?

### Uganda



#### **What positive contributions to peace and security do youth make in the region?**

- Tell us the meaning of peace according to your understanding.
- What is security?
- How do young people in your community or region contribute to peace and security?
- Do you think youth are recognized by elders and politician and why? If not why? And what do they do once they are not recognizes?

#### **What are the key security, justice and conflict challenges that youth face in the region?**

- What Insecurity concerns and injustice do you experience in your community or in this region?
- What do you think are conflicting issues that usually arise in the regions and what causes those conflicts?
- Do you know any other people who are in similar situation with you? Are they worse of better off?

#### **What other initiatives can youth explore to promote peace and security in the region?**

- What do you do to promote peace in the community and the region?
- What initiatives are in place for young people in the region and community at large?
- What do you think governments can do to promote young people's efforts in the region?
- How can governments address injustices and insecurity in the region?
- How can youth and other stakeholders work together to promote peace and security in the region?

### The DRC



- How are young people organized in the transformation and resolution of conflicts?
- In your opinion, do you have in-depth knowledge of conflict prevention and resolution?
- What are the possibilities for young people from different Border Zones to engage in cultural activities and constructive dialogue in favour of peace?
- What barriers do young people face in implementing the YPS agenda?
- What is the current relationship between young people from the Border Zones and the authorities?
- What do you propose so that he has sufficient support from government authorities in the process of implementing peacebuilding?
- Are young people covered by politico-administrative authorities in the peacebuilding process.
- What is the current relationship between young people from border areas and the authorities?
- According to your observations, what are the root causes of the conflicts in the Border Zones?
- What do you propose so that peace is finally a reality in the border areas?

# YOUTH IN THE PERIPHERIES:

Extending the Evidence on Youth Contributions  
to Peace in the Great Lakes Region





# YOUTH IN THE PERIPHERIES:

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