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Impactful Partnership with Trócaire



PARTNERSHIP · 1995 – 2027

Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of Rwanda

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ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Who we are

Organization name	Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of Rwanda (CEJP Rwanda)
Year established	**1988**
Institutional affiliation	Technical body of the Episcopal Conference of Rwanda
Legal personality	Local non-governmental organization (NGO) Registration No. Reg 000057/RGB/NGO/LP/04/2026, from 13 April 2026, under new Rwanda legislation TIN (Tax Identification Number): 100603186
Core mandate	Promotion of justice, peace, social cohesion, unity, reconciliation, human rights, environmental stewardship, climate action, regional peacebuilding, cross-border coexistence, and reduction of socio-economic inequalities.

VISION AND MISSION

VISION

A society where peace, social justice, respect for human rights, and democratic principles prevail.

MISSION

To promote a pastoral approach grounded in the values of justice, peace, unity, reconciliation, and the defense of the inalienable rights of every human person, inspired by the teachings of the Gospel.

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

Looking ahead

CEJP Rwanda's projects and programmes face operational, financial, and strategic challenges that affect their effectiveness and sustainability. Better planning, resource mobilization, and stakeholder engagement can strengthen delivery and maximize impact.

1 Financial limitations versus coverage areas

A major challenge is the gap between available funds and the areas needing intervention.

- **Limited funding** restricts the ability to reach all targeted communities and beneficiaries.
- Rising operational costs (transport, logistics, monitoring, staffing) reduce the funds available for direct activities.
- Many remote communities have unmet needs, as funds only cover selected locations.
- Budget limits often mean scaling down activities, lower implementation quality, or shorter projects.

2 Concentration on topics suggested by financial partners

Donor and partner priorities strongly influence what programmes focus on.

- Donors often fund specific themes that may not match emerging community needs.
- CEJP Rwanda may be pushed toward issues simply because funding exists for them.
- Community-driven priorities can receive less attention when they fall outside donor interests.
- Limited flexibility affects innovation and responsiveness to local realities.
- Programmes may be perceived as externally driven rather than locally owned.

PERSPECTIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Co-design and support scaling up projects grounded in the previous achievements and experiences.
- Strengthen evidence-based advocacy to show donors the community's priorities.
- Hold regular consultations with donors to align funding with local needs.
- Design integrated projects that serve donor priorities while responding to community concerns.
- Build capacity to access a wider range of funding mechanisms that support CEJP Rwanda's strategic objectives.

STORY OF CHANGE

Literacy Programme · Kibumbwe, Nyabimata and Ntarabana

Literacy: A Pathway to Opportunity and Leadership

The first cohort celebrates its graduation



BEFORE	WHAT HELPED	TODAY
150 learners enrolled in the first literacy cohort.	One year of literacy classes run by CEJP Rwanda in partnership with Trócaire.	96 graduated (64%), 22 were elected to local structures, and a second cohort of 150 has begun.

In **July 2026**, the first cohort of the literacy program in **Kibumbwe, Nyabimata, and Ntarabana** celebrated an important milestone. Implemented by CEJP Rwanda in partnership with Trócaire, the program enrolled **150 learners**. After one year of study, **96 participants graduated**, achieving a completion rate of **64%**.

For these graduates, literacy means much more than learning to read and write. It has strengthened their confidence and opened up new opportunities. Several graduates hope to pursue vocational training or start income-generating activities to improve their livelihoods and support their families.

The program has also encouraged community leadership: **22 graduates** were elected to represent their peers in local structures. Their election reflects the trust they have earned and their commitment to contributing to community decisions and development.

Local authorities attended the graduation ceremony and praised CEJP and Trócaire for investing in literacy. A second cohort of **150 learners** was subsequently launched in Busanze, Mbazi, and Rukozo.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL REACH, COVERAGE AND IMPACT

Reach and impact

- Presence across the whole country through **diocesan and parish structures**
- A strong grassroots base for justice, peace, reconciliation, and sustainable development
- Cross-border action across the Great Lakes Region, including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi

10 Diocesan Justice and Peace Commissions (CDJPs)	**30** districts of Rwanda covered	**216** Parish Justice and Peace Commissions

IMPACT IN FIGURES

301 Unity and reconciliation groups	**10,000** Members of unity and reconciliation groups	**564** Justice and Peace clubs in schools
1,100 Psychosocial facilitators	**2,000** Pilot families	**1,208** Paralegals
1,780 Mediators	**20** Cross-border small-trade cooperatives	**120** VSLs

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our five pillars, 2027–2031

1

Social cohesion, reconciliation and resilience

Dialogue, healing of wounds, reintegration

BY 2031 **40%** fewer tensions linked to the aftermath of the genocide; **70%** of returnees and ex-combatants from the FDLR, as well as ex-convicted prisoners of the 1994 genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, reintegrated and engaged into the national reconciliation and resilience process

2

Human rights, social justice and good governance

Rights, fighting gender-based violence, citizen participation

BY 2031 **30%** less gender-based violence

3

Migration, coexistence and integration

Migrants and refugees, border mediation

BY 2031 **50%** fewer violent border incidents

4

Climate justice and environment

Integral ecology, community adaptation

BY 2031 **100,000** vulnerable households more climate-resilient

5

Organization and financial self-reliance

Digital tools, own resources, credibility

BY 2031 **15%** of the budget from own resources in 2030–2031

STORY OF CHANGE — Women's Empowerment · Busanze Sector

From Dropping Out of School to Determination

Uwimana Solange's journey



Uwimana Solange, 18, is from Bitare Village in Nkanda Cell, Busanze Sector. In 2023, while in her third year at GS Musebeya TSS, she had to leave school because her family could not afford the school materials she needed. She began selling avocados to earn money.

Solange was later selected to join a CEJP women's empowerment program for adolescent girls. Through sessions on self-confidence, decision-making, time management, and the prevention of gender-based violence, she began to see that she could return to school and shape her own future.

BEFORE	WHAT HELPED	TODAY
She had to leave school in 2023 because her family could not afford school materials.	Sessions on self-confidence, decision-making, time management, and preventing gender-based violence.	Back in school, studying tailoring, and a founder of a club where girls support one another.

Using the savings she had earned from selling avocados, she bought a school uniform and essential materials. In 2024, she re-enrolled in the third year. She is now in her fourth year, specializing in tailoring, and continues to sell avocados every Saturday to help cover her school expenses.

Solange has also helped establish a club where girls share experiences, build confidence, and support one another in preventing gender-based violence. Through her own story, she encourages her peers not to give up on school and shows them how perseverance can create new opportunities.

STORY OF CHANGE — Women's Empowerment · Bwenda Cell, Nyamagabe District

From Marginalization to Community Leadership

Mushimiyimana Clarisse's journey



At 36, **Mushimiyimana Clarisse**, from Murambi in Bwenda Cell, Nyamagabe District, lived on the margins of her community with her husband and their four children. She felt excluded and avoided community gatherings, including umuganda and local meetings, because she was afraid to speak in public.

BEFORE	WHAT HELPED	TODAY
She felt excluded and avoided community gatherings because she was afraid to speak in public.	Training on self-confidence, women's rights, gender-based violence prevention, and women's participation in decision-making.	Elected to her village women's council with 100% of the votes; she encourages other women to learn and lead.

Her journey changed when she joined a women's leadership program implemented by CEJP Rwanda with support from Trócaire. Training on self-confidence, women's rights, gender-based violence prevention, and women's participation in decision-making helped her recognize her potential. She began taking an active part in community programs and stood for election to her village women's council (CNF). She was elected with **100% of the votes**.

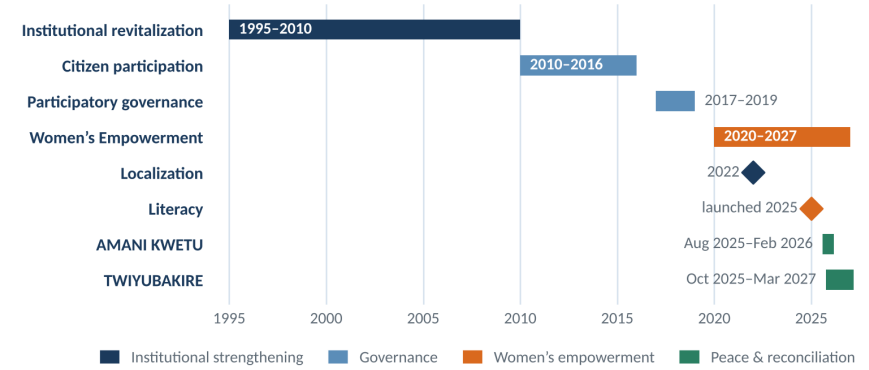
Since then, Clarisse has encouraged other women to get involved. She mobilizes them to attend literacy classes, advocates for children's education, and promotes mushroom farming to improve family nutrition and income. Her leadership has already inspired **nine women** to attend literacy classes.

On November 11, 2025, she led an activity in Murambi to encourage women to pursue education, send their children to school, and adopt sustainable farming practices. Clarisse now hopes to become a Mutwarasibo, a community leader. She is grateful to CEJP and Trócaire for helping her discover her leadership potential.

PARTNERSHIP

Our projects with Trócaire, 1995–2027

Trócaire and CEJP have worked side by side since 1995. Here are our eight projects and programmes.



A diamond (◇) marks a project that lasted one year, or the year a programme was launched.

WHO OUR RECENT PROGRAMMES REACH

15,000
women and girls in the Women's Empowerment Programme

100
religious leaders, journalists and social media influencers in AMANI KWETU

200
genocide survivors and former genocide prisoners in TWIYUBAKIRE

OUR DONORS VIA TRÓCAIRE

DONOR	PROGRAMME	PERIOD
European Union	Citizen Participation in Decentralized Structures Programme	2010 – 2016
USAID	Enhancing Participatory Governance and Accountability Project	2017 – 2019
Irish Aid	Women's Empowerment Programme	2020 – 2027
FCDO	TWIYUBAKIRE Programme	Oct 2025 – Mar 2027

OUR PROJECTS IN DETAIL

Institutional Revitalization and Strengthening	1995 – 2010
OBJECTIVE	Rebuild and strengthen CEJP after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi
PARTNER	Trócaire (partnership began in 1995)
REACH	From the national level to dioceses, parishes, sub-parishes, and Christian Ecclesial Base Communities (CEBs)

Citizen Participation in Decentralized Structures Programme	2010 – 2016
OBJECTIVE	More citizen involvement in local governance, greater accountability and transparency
FUNDED BY	European Union, through Trócaire

Enhancing Participatory Governance and Accountability Project	2017 – 2019
OBJECTIVE	Transparency, citizen oversight, and better monitoring of public services
FUNDED BY	USAID, through Trócaire
PARTICIPANTS	Communities and local authorities

Women's Empowerment Programme	2020 – 2027
OBJECTIVE	Transform unequal power relations between women and men by addressing social norms that limit women's leadership and decision-making
FUNDED BY	Irish Aid
PARTICIPANTS	**12,750** low-income women and **2,250** adolescent girls
WHERE	Rulindo, Nyaruguru, and Nyamagabe districts

From fear and uncertainty to peace and reconciliation (continued)

Fortune's journey towards healing and reconciliation began when she became part of the **TWIYUBAKIRE Project**, which supported her through different interventions aimed at helping her heal from past experiences, rebuild relationships, and reintegrate into her community. Through trauma healing sessions, she was given a safe space to reflect on her painful experiences, understand her emotions, and gradually overcome the fear and emotional burden she had carried after her release from prison. She also participated in group dialogue spaces through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), where members have had opportunities to share experiences, listen to one another, build trust, and strengthen relationships. In addition, she benefited from economic support through the provision of small livestock, which helped her strengthen her livelihood and regain confidence as a member of the community. Through these combined interventions, Fortune gained the courage to face her past and take steps towards reconciliation. One of the most important steps in her journey was finding the courage to approach Marthe and ask for her forgiveness, which she willingly granted.

The experience brought significant changes in Fortune's life. After receiving Marthe's forgiveness, she felt a deep sense of peace, relief and serenity. The fear and emotional pressure that had affected her since her release from prison diminished. Her relationship with Marthe also changed considerably. Instead of living with suspicion and discomfort towards each other, they are now able to interact openly and peacefully. Today, Marthe has become a good friend to Fortune and they live in the community without the mistrust that previously existed between them.

Fortune's experience demonstrates the contribution of the TWIYUBAKIRE project to healing, forgiveness, and the social reintegration of people affected by the consequences of the genocide against the Tutsi. Through the opportunity to reflect, seek forgiveness and rebuild relationships, Fortune was able to move from fear and uncertainty towards peace and more harmonious coexistence. Her reconciliation with Marthe shows how healing and forgiveness can help restore trust between people and create opportunities for former prisoners and survivors to live together peacefully. Today, Fortune looks to the future with greater hope, feeling more accepted within her community and relieved from the emotional burden that once made her reintegration difficult.

STORY OF CHANGE

Former prisoner · Mugombwa Sector, Gisagara District

From fear and uncertainty to peace and reconciliation

Fortune Nibabyare's journey



BEFORE	WHAT HELPED	TODAY
After a long time in prison, she was afraid of how the people she had harmed would receive her.	Trauma healing sessions, group dialogue in her savings group (VSLA), and small livestock to restart her livelihood.	She asked Marthe for forgiveness and Marthe gave it. They are now friends.

NIBABYARE Fortune from Gisagara District, Mugombwa Sector is a former prisoner who was released from prison almost two years ago after spending a long period in detention. Following her release, she faced the difficult reality of returning to community life. She was fearful and uncertain about how she would be received by the people around her, particularly those whom she had harmed in the past. She wondered whether it would be possible for her to live peacefully alongside them again and build relationships that had been affected by her past actions.

OUR PROJECTS IN DETAIL (CONTINUED)

Localization Programme	2022
OBJECTIVE	Strengthen local ownership and institutional capacity
PARTNER	Trócaire (technical and financial support)
RESULTS	Self-assessment with the PCAS tool, policies reviewed, staff skills strengthened, essential equipment provided

Literacy Programme	2025
OBJECTIVE	Improve literacy and numeracy to build women's confidence to take part in community life and leadership
PARTNER	CEJP and Trócaire
WHY	Low education levels remained a barrier to women's leadership

AMANI KWETU Project	Aug 2025 – Feb 2026
OBJECTIVE	Cross-border peacebuilding: peaceful coexistence, social cohesion, conflict prevention, intercommunity dialogue, fight against hate speech
PARTICIPANTS	**25** religious leaders and **75** journalists and social media influencers from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi
WHERE	Goma-Rubavu, Bukavu-Rusizi, and communities in Rwanda and Burundi

TWIYUBAKIRE Programme	Oct 2025 – Mar 2027
OBJECTIVE	Unity and reconciliation, community resilience, trauma healing, social cohesion
FUNDED BY	FCDO
PARTICIPANTS	**100** genocide survivors and **100** former genocide prisoners
WHERE	Bugesera and Gisagara districts

STORY OF CHANGE

Survivor · Ruhuha Sector, Bugesera District

From the burden of the past to a peaceful old age

Alphonse Sharangabo's journey of healing and forgiveness



BEFORE	WHAT HELPED	TODAY
For many years he carried the pain of losing his loved ones, and resentment kept him from feeling at peace.	Healing and reconciliation sessions gave him a safe place to talk and to meet people who had hurt him.	He has let go of the burden and chosen reconciliation. He wants a peaceful old age among his neighbours.

Alphonse SHARANGABO, a survivor of the Genocide against the Tutsi from Bugesera District, Ruhuha Sector, lived for many years with the pain of losing his loved ones and the emotional wounds left by the genocide. The memories of what happened remained a heavy burden, while feelings of resentment towards those who had harmed him continued to affect his inner peace. As he grew older, Alphonse increasingly desired to spend his old age in peace, free from fear, hatred and hostility, and to live in harmony with the people around him.

Alphonse had the opportunity to participate in the healing, unity and reconciliation activities implemented by CEJP RWANDA through the **TWIYUBAKIRE Project**. The sessions provided

From the burden of the past to a peaceful old age (continued)

him with a safe space to reflect on his painful experiences, express his emotions and gradually work towards healing. Through the discussions and interactions with others, including people who had contributed to his suffering, he began to see the possibility of letting go of the heavy burden he had carried for many years.

Through this journey, Alphonse progressively regained a sense of inner freedom and became more open to forgiving those who have offended and harmed him. The healing process helped him understand that forgiveness can contribute to his own peace and wellbeing. Instead of allowing the pain of the past to continue controlling his life, he began choosing reconciliation and peaceful coexistence with others. This transformation enabled him to approach his relationships with greater openness and renewed desire for harmony within his community.

Today Alphonse says he wants to live the remaining years of his life free from the burden of the past, with a peaceful heart and in harmony with his community. His experience demonstrates how healing and reconciliation can help survivors move towards greater inner peace and rebuild relationships within their communities. As he enters his old age, Alphonse's greatest wish is to enjoy his life surrounded by peace, without fear and to continue living with those around him.