



**Association Jeunesse Porte Flambeau pour combattre le
Sida et la drogue "JPCSD"**

YOUTH ENGAGED TO FIGHT AIDS AND DRUGS

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"A conscious and competent youth to build its future"

Presentation of the JPCSD

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| Name of the organization | Association "Youth Engaged to fight AIDS and Drugs" JPCSD " |
| Legal framework | JPCSD is a non-profit organization approved by Ministerial Order N 530/365 / of June 10, 2002, the name change of which bears the N ° Ref: 530/1313 / CAB / 2020. |
| Mission | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act and advocate in favor of vulnerable categories of people |

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| <p>Vision</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the reduction of the harmful effects of drugs and substances harmful to the health of young people; • Contribute to the capacity building of vulnerable young people <p>A Burundian youth endowed with sufficient capacities to build its future and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.</p> |
| <p>Target</p> | <p>Vulnerable and higher risk youth</p> |
| <p>Areas of intervention</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychosocial support and social reintegration of young people in difficulty • Advocacy and lobbying • Capacity building of young people • Human rights and gender |
| <p>Areas of experience</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychosocial support and social reintegration of young drug users • Rehabilitation and psychosocial support for perpetrators of rape in prison • Reproductive Sexual Health and Prevention of HIV & other infections in young people • Capacity Building • Advocacy |

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| Priority 2021 | <p>Contribute to the reduction of the harm of drug use among young people through a center for psychological support and social reintegration of people victims of drug addiction</p> <p>"Bright Future Generation"</p> |
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1. Context and rationale

The 2018-2022 strategic plan to fight HIV / AIDS presents drug users as one of the priorities for key populations at high risk of HIV infection.

According to a study carried out in Bujumbura City Hall in 2017, it was found that among the drug users surveyed, 10.2% were seropositive, 9.4% had the hepatitis B virus while 5.5% had the hepatitis C virus.

It has been found that sharing needles is a real problem with IDUs, the use of new needles to inject themselves is not the concern of many of them. In addition, sharing the contents of syringes and having unprotected sex is a reality that causes many new HIV infections. Awareness sessions are therefore extremely necessary to avoid risky behavior.

Alongside these infections, the unsanitary conditions of the places where injectable drugs are consumed and the conditions under which this drug is taken constitute a real pathway for the spread of infectious diseases such as dermatoses, respiratory infections as well as diseases of dirty hands.

The main reasons mentioned which pushed IDU (injected drug users) to use drugs are mainly: the influence of friends, the influence of "the generation", team spirit, having wanted to taste, need for energy to satisfy the during sexual relations, need for assertion by peers, going to nightclubs, overcoming daily problems and in particular to get sleep, lack of supervision following the death of parents, injuries due to parents' divorce, bad neighborhood with remarried parents, squandering of the family inheritance to the detriment of the interests of the children heirs by close relatives, situation of extreme poverty, history of arbitrary / abusive imprisonment, experience of scenes of horrific violence during armed conflicts, history of being a victim of sexual violence for girls, etc.

Likewise, drug use has become commonplace among categories of people most at risk of communicable infections, such as sex workers and men who have sex with men.

Indeed, the results of the "PLACE" study indicate a seroprevalence of 4.8% among men who have sex with men and 21.3% among sex workers (PLACE, 2013).

Also, it should be noted that almost all young people express the intention to give up drugs without effects. They have already made several attempts without success but the lack is unbearable. Some say they have vomited to death, are victims of an intense and irreducible fever, cannot do anything. Some regret because they know their lives are in danger while others realize that they are already abandoned by their families.

It must be noted that drug users face the lack or insufficient training of peer educators, the persistence of stigma, insufficient financial resources and the existence of legal barriers.

Although the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS has developed a good strategy to deal with HIV, in particular by allowing all health centers to offer voluntary HIV testing and that community relays are sufficiently sensitized to promote the use of care structures, IDUs are immune to this information because they tend to live in hiding and do not spontaneously and openly resort to public health services except those of a few associations. Thus the fear of being apprehended by the security forces is a real fact that severely limits access to health services.

It is in this context that the association "Youth torchbearers to fight AIDS and drugs" JPCSD in acronym, set up a center to prepare for a promising future among drug users called "Bright Future Generation. ".

2. Strategies and approaches of the psychosocial support center of the JPCSD

"Bright Future Generation"

- Reception without moral judgment,
- Motivational interview,
- "Communication and reconciliation with parents" approach,

- Establishment of a relationship of trust,
- "Training" approach on the culinary arts and hospitality, HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health, apprenticeship of trades and IT
- "Prayer" approach through spiritual guidance,
- "Culture" approach through sport and music,
- Hygiene assistance,
- Encouragement of primary care and screening for transmissible infections,
- Learning how to grow and maintain a vegetable garden

N.B. The participatory approach is favored to encourage their initiatives and develop their sense of responsibility.

3. Reception capacity

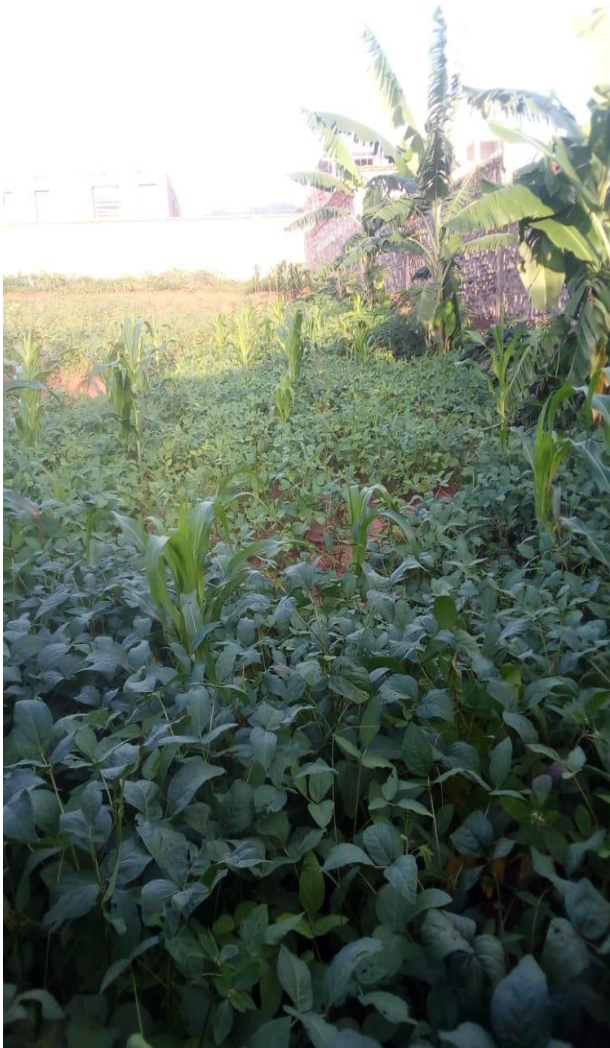
The Bright Future Generation center has the capacity to accommodate 20 people. Eleven young people among them have just been reintegrated into the 2020 family, leaving room for others whose demand exceeds the reception capacity. Upon discharge, the JPCSD provides them with a closer follow-up, together with their parents or guardians in order to compensate for a possible relapse.

4. Future prospects

- Establishment of a "club of former drug users" and "parent champions" to serve as ambassadors within their social environment in terms of prevention of addiction,
- Following a strong demand for accommodation by parents of drug users, it is planned to extend the building to increase the reception capacity of the said center.
- Opening of a specific support center for young girls who use drugs, whose demand is growing
- Organization of an awareness campaign on the harmful effects of drug use in the large urban areas of Burundi and in secondary schools

- Initiate income-generating activities such as: bakery, computer maintenance, henhouse and sewing with the aim of facilitating professional reintegration at the same time enhancing their capacities and making them respect at the community level
- Promote the diversity of talents of the young people accommodated to strengthen self-esteem and to make them more useful to the community
- Accelerate advocacy initiatives for respect for human rights and gender
- Strengthen the multisectoral partnership
- Build the capacities of young people most at risk in terms of drugs and infectious diseases.
- Develop a basketball court within the “Bright Future Generation” center

Some pictures related to the activities carried out:





Corn, soy, peanut, and banana fields set up by young people supported through the “Bright Future Generation” center.



Vegetable gardens maintained by young people from the center



Sporting activities



Young people from the center feed the rabbits



Learning the art of cooking



Medico-psychosocial support for young people



Exchanges between young people from the “Bright Future Generation” center

Accommodation and training room

