

# Glocon

...the Global and Local Community Conversation

## WEEK 8

Rwanda: Kigali and Masoro sector of  
Rulindo April 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### Foreword: appreciating, encouraging, and sharing local community story

Rwanda is the sixth country of the Glocon 'story'. This is a synthesis from a local community SALT visit to Rulindo outside Kigali. Sixteen local communities have already been visited and documented. Each location will have its own synthesis so we can accumulate insight on local and global patterns of community response and transfer, and organisational adaptation. The 'themes and sub themes that matter to us' are the core of Glocon learning. Sincere thanks to local and country hosts, and to the local communities, for showing the future.

### Background

The Glocon visit coincided with the 18<sup>th</sup> National Genocide Memorial Week. This meant limited time for community interaction, but many conversations about the poignant meanings of loss, faith, hope, reconciliation, and healing.

In 1995 Ian and Alison first visited Rwanda to encourage HIV engagement as part of The Salvation Army response to the genocide that lasted 100 days from April 6<sup>th</sup> 1994. SALT visits and partnership with the Office of the First Lady helped the emergence of the Rwanda National Facilitation Team in 2003. Thanks to Faby Ngeruka who was part of that team and in 2008 introduced us to Valens Nkurikiyinka, who was the country host for this visit.

The community visited in Rwanda is a participant with an organisation called Tabara, which means 'come for aid.' .... Tabara was the local host.

### Key Sections

- *Glocon visit team members*
- *Process*
- *Where are we now?*
- *Transfer*
- *Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us*

See [www.affirmfacilitators.org](http://www.affirmfacilitators.org); [www.facebook.com/glocon.affirm](https://www.facebook.com/glocon.affirm);

See also the facebook group "Glocon participants". By end of February, the first Glocon Update will be available through the [www.affirmfacilitators.org](http://www.affirmfacilitators.org) website and the facebook page. The background to Glocon is described in the concept note, on the affirm website.

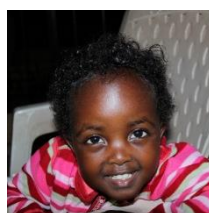


***The Glocon visit team (right)***

- Onesmus Mutuku(Kenya)
- Alison Campbell
- Clarisse Uwitonze (Rwanda)
- Ian Campbell

***.....and country hosts .....***

- Valens Nkurikiyinka and family



**The Glocon team in action**



**Nordine Tuyisabe**



***.....and friends....***

**Obed Tungo and  
Dyna Tungo**



**Robert Tuftstrom**

**Francois Nsengimana**



## Glossary

GP -Glocon Participants

SALT -Support and Learning Team

Tabara-‘Come for aid’.

TSA-The Salvation Army

## Process

**Day 1 Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>:**

Valens Nkurikiyinka met the visiting team to clarify community locations and process. The whole population will be engaged in community conversation each afternoon for the National Week of Remembrance of the Genocide. The theme is ‘Learning from our history to build a bright future’. The mornings were available for Glocon SALT interaction.



*‘Does God care about our suffering?’*



**Day 2 Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>:**

Orientation to current Rwanda context through conversation with Obed and Dyna Tungo and family, after Easter Sunday morning worship.



*Obed: Our grandfathers went to DRC. The family returned in 1998. I used to drink a lot and was violent, that is where the Salvation Army officer found me, and we used to talk. I have changed completely. Now we are officers, here in Kigali, for the first time working in a city environment.'*



Obed (far left) and Dyna (far right) with their children.

**Day 3 Monday April 9<sup>th</sup>:**

*Tabara is a non-profit organisation to help people out of problems especially HIV. It began in 2006 in the home of my neighbour, whose family was affected but they did not understand what was happening. We discussed with them that they were not affected by witchcraft but by HIV. The AIDS commission (CNLS) helped them with testing and treatment. We used drama to stimulate discussion in the neighbourhood. –Nordine*



*We hear your conviction, based on the question of what can we do for our neighbourhood. With that conviction we ask, 'what strength do we have.' Partners support to complement our strengths and vision, but they cannot substitute for the strength we ourselves have. -Onesmus*



**Visit to Masaro sector of Rulindo.**

*Clarisse: The people who were living with HIV in the area had treatment but not good nutrition, so they were not well. They decided to use Tabara's support to have dairy cows. They also farm together. Now they are much healthier.*



Climbing up the hill where the cooperative is based, above the area authority's office and the hospital.

Elias Martin, president of cooperative: *We began with 60 members, now have 40 because the lazy ones have gone. 21 members are living with HIV, others are supporting. We meet three times in the week, twice in our task groups, Mondays we all meet, and contribute 100 Rw.francs each, which is given to a different member according to need.*







*We reach out to others who are sick and especially with HIV. Tabara (ngo) came with the dairy cows, and we are stronger today. When we see Tabara, it is like seeing our parents.*

*At home I was lonely, but now I am happy to join with others.*

*Jacqueline: I was living with HIV, at first very unhappy, lonely, keeping to myself. When the leaders called me, I felt like someone. Where I live they did not relate with people living with HIV but here I have people. I'm now taking medicine and hope to be better. There has been a big change at home; I am no longer avoided, they are amazed at me.*



*They are curious about what we are doing. Some in the community are jealous, waiting for us to fail, to take the cows. Some want to join us and we tell them it is not easy!*



*In future we hope that each family will have a cow, and this cooperative will be sustained. We have many plans.  
-Fabiani*





*Now there is greater acceptance at home. We are not rejected any more. Before, we were feeling ashamed when going to get our medication. Now we are an example for others with HIV, we invite them to come to clinic, we talk with them to encourage them.*



*It is a big result in less than a year of working together, to see this change in the community -Alison*

*Onesmus: my uncle had HIV, he was growing weak and needed a lot of support from the family. He never kept to himself and we all came in to support. He was open and got much support. We also did not feel such a burden as this was a shared responsibility among us.*



*Ian: We are aware of this significant week of discussions about the future. You are the image of a brighter future. People are in better relationship because of your effort. Even envy is a longing for the future. Your story is significant to Rwanda and also to other places. This is actually showing a deeper relationship, to share our stories with each other. Solutions can be found where it was thought impossible.*



*We are happy for your visit. If not this week (mourning) we would dance.*



**Feedback discussion with Tabara coordinator Nordine and teammate/translator Clarisse:**

*We see real strengths of the organisation, the local government, and community members, all working together. We saw the social impact of the cooperative on the members and the whole community.*



*The plan now is for members of the cooperative to take a cow home as new ones are born.*

*We already encourage community to keep going*

*The members are influencing their own villages*

**What** is the future after funding is finished?

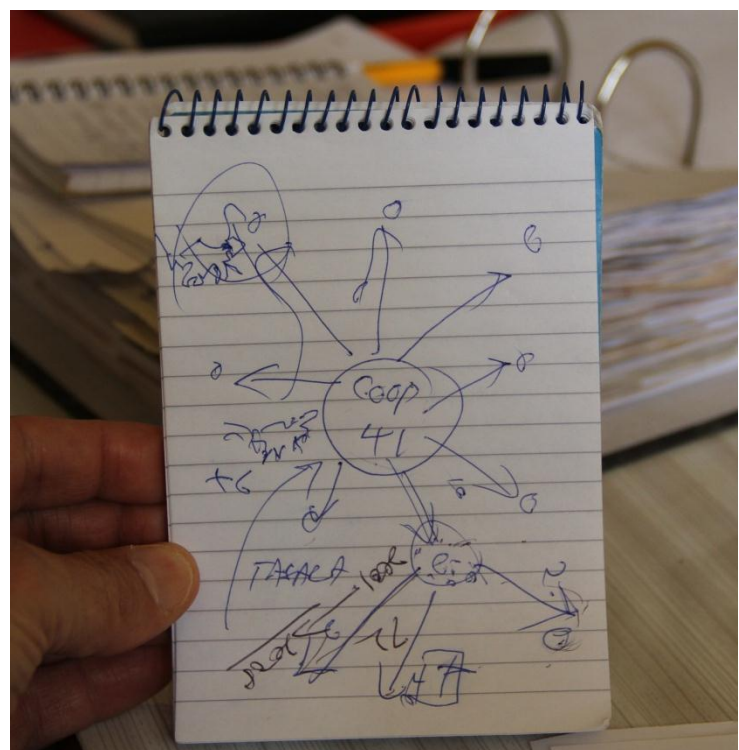
*Look at the possibility for transfer in future (see the cow in the diagram!)*

*Nearby villages could also adapt the idea based on cooperative farming. Those who envy now may join in future.*

*We have in mind that the cooperative can be a base for storage and distribution of milk.*

*If the cooperative expands it could be a hub for all local cooperatives in the area of Rulindo.*

*Tabara could change its role if there is less funding available, to support the communities in vision and planning, management and marketing.*





### Reflections on the memorial week:

*I am one of the people who will give testimony in the afternoon. Then we discuss together about the future. We who are survivors must share our stories to help everyone to not be held by the past. It is easier now than 10 years ago when we would all become very heavy and low during this week. Now it is a bit lighter, we are able to go on. We are healing. -Nordine*



## Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us

Note that each visit will enable strengthened analysis of some or one main theme

### Indicators of movement(s)

- Local community initiated action, self -assessment, and transfer
- Invitations back home
- Community to community transfer:
- Adaptable organizational strategies
- Spiritual and faith motivated initiative

### Care to change

- Ownership
- Home, suffering, hope, neighbourhood

Week 7 Rwanda: Masoro village

*'Shared confidentiality'*

Home is no longer a place of isolation –community includes and everyone is normalising HIV. Picking up ART from the hospital is no longer a secretive stressful journey. It is normal and everyone is talking about moving on with life. There has been a shift from secrecy to shared confidentiality in eight months of interaction with a community cooperative which represents many local communities and their families and neighbourhoods. Transfer has been very fast to many local communities of the members, because of confidence that each member cares about the others, and Tabara accompanies, and listens, and facilitates conversation about next steps. The local government is supportive.

The origin of Tabara in 2006 was care of a neighbourhood member in the home by the founder of what became Tabara. Neighbours were included, they helped, and everyone relaxed.

The axis of shift is varied depending on context –but whether from home to neighbourhood to wider community, or from community group to home to neighbourhood, the results can be the same- including destigmatisation, via shared safe intimacy or confidentiality, better sustained care at home and health facility, increased treatment access and adherence, income generation, improved nutrition, locally driven expansion prevention , increased self-confidence , and ambition for the future.

Hope flourishes



- Caring presence which motivates expanding change

#### **Transfer**

- Community to community
- Global SALT
- Leadership acknowledgment

#### **Faith foundations**

- Caring by being with
- God present in situation in grace

#### **Facilitation team**

- Organisation transitions
- Discovering shared concerns with partners (common ground)
- Community as lifestyle
- Mentoring by participating

#### **Learning from local experience (SALT)**

- Humility of disposition and character
- Connecting local community and organizations
- Facilitating movements
- Strengths based