

# THE GREAT LAKES CENTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION



*Working for sustainable peace in the volatile  
Great Lakes Region of Africa*

## About the Founders

Robert Opira and Godfrey Mukalazi both from Uganda attended the Rotary World Peace Fellowship at the University of Queensland in Australia and are now living in Uganda.

Robert and Godfrey started The Great Lakes Center for Conflict Resolution so that they can use their knowledge and skills acquired from the Rotary World Peace Fellowship to help resolve conflicts and build peace in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

Both Robert and Godfrey want to pursue careers in conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to them, starting this organization is the best way of realizing their dreams and aspirations.

## Contact

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## Background

The Great Lakes Center for Conflict Resolution is an independent organization started in January 2008 with the aim of preventing conflict and promoting peace in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. The organization is registered as a not-for-profit and non-governmental organization in Uganda and its activities cover Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan.

With the exception of Tanzania, all the countries mentioned above have gone or are going through political unrest and/or civil wars. The conflicts in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan have claimed lives of millions of innocent civilians and armed groups in these countries committed gross violation of human rights including recruitment of child soldiers.

In addition, \$300 billion have been spent on wars in Africa over the past 15 years (Uganda \$1.7 billion, Burundi \$5.7 billion, Rwanda \$8.4 billion, and Democratic Republic of Congo \$18 billion). The same amount was also spent on humanitarian support to people affected by wars. The conflicts also destroyed decades of development efforts and prevented further development thus exaggerating human suffering and poverty.

Amidst all these conflicts, while the governments pursued military and diplomatic solutions to end the conflicts, most civil society organizations focused on mitigating the impact of the conflicts and alleviating human suffering by providing relief aid and little attention has been given to addressing the underlying causes of the conflicts.

The Great Lakes Center for Conflict Resolution will work with the governments, local people affected, and different civil society groups to identify and

address the underlying issues that have caused conflicts in the region. This is crucial in achieving sustainable peace in the region that has not known peace for decades.

## Strategic Objectives

- Establishing early warning signs of conflicts and lobbying for timely resolution of the conflicts.
- Capacity building for civil society and government leaders in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.
- Peace dialogues to promote cross-cultural and cross-border reconciliation.

## Our Strategies

- Research and information dissemination.
- Advocacy and lobbying for better policy options and timely resolution of conflicts.
- Training in conflict resolution and peacebuilding
- Supporting stakeholders to mainstream peacebuilding in their development activities.
- Cultural exchange programmes and conferences for young leaders.

## Join us to become a Peace Builder

Building peace is a concerted effort. Thus you can participate directly or indirectly in one of our activities. Currently we are seeking support from Rotarians and friends to acquire the following:

- 2 Desktop Computers
- 2 Laptop Computers
- 2 Printers
- 1 Data Projector for training
- 1 Photocopier
- Developing and hosting of a website

**To donate any of the above, contact us on  
the addresses to the left of this flyer.**