



**PARJE**  
Parc des Jeunes Entrepreneurs

Créativité - Innovation - Entrepreneuriat

**SEARCH  
FOR COMMON  
GROUND**

**SESSION ON THE ECONOMIC AND NETWORKING CONCERNS  
OF YOUNG PEOPLES IN BUJUMBURA CITY ON THE THEME:**

**« CULTURE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP »**



by

**Session consultants:**

IGIRUKWISHAKA Jean Bosco

NIRAGIRA Didace

**Rohero, 28 April 2021**

## I. INTRODUCTION

The session was organised in the urban commune of Ntahangwa on 28 April 2021 under the theme: " **Culture and entrepreneurship** ". The participants in the session were young entrepreneurs with income-generating initiatives.

## II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

The session took the form of an open conference-debate in which each theme was broken down into small open questions that the participants answered in groups. The young participants presented the results of their groups before starting a discussion for each presentation. Group work was organised to obtain commitments and recommendations from the participants.

### **Title : CULTURE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

#### **1. Statement of the problem**

Burundi is classified as one of the poorest countries in the world. Between the early 1990s and 2020, its GDP fell by more than 30%, or \$213 per capita per year, and life expectancy fell from 52 to 41 years. It is estimated that 70% of the Burundian population lives on an income of less than a dollar a day, and 72.9% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Moreover, youth employment remains a problem. Young people graduating from the various training institutions are finding it difficult to enter the world of work. Most people wonder why a country like Burundi, where we have all the resources, remains the poorest country in the world.

#### **2. Why is this a problem in our community?**

Widespread poverty in Burundi is the result of a multitude of factors, including Burundian culture and a school curriculum that is ill-suited to the entrepreneurial spirit.

Burundian culture is full of virtues that trap people, especially young people, in poverty. Burundians have integrated into their habits the idea that living in poverty is a normal situation. This reduces or even eliminates people's ability to tackle problems and to develop a competitive spirit in the business world.

Burundi's school curriculum does not teach people to take charge of their own affairs, to be their own boss. The curriculum does not teach people to take risks, to evaluate markets, to think for themselves. The education system is designed to produce civil servants and employees. Young graduates are not ready to venture into self-employment!

#### **3. What happens if the problem is not solved?**

##### **a. In the short term :**

Youth idleness: youth employment remains a problem. Young entrepreneurs do not dare to start their own business.

Some young people who do dare to start up are often discouraged by those around them and prefer to give up early. This makes young people vulnerable to political manipulation, which is often a source of conflict.

## **b. In the long term :**

For young people who find themselves in a situation of persistent unemployment or who are discouraged despite having dared to start their own business, this is above all an individual situation in which their psychological condition and daily life will be affected. Their attitudes and behaviour will undergo changes that, in some cases, will last well beyond the period of unemployment. The economic level of families deteriorates further and desperate young people adopt inhumane behaviour (crime, suicide, theft, etc.). The country is still in a state of economic and political instability.

### **4. brief summary of the ideas and key points emerging from the session**

The young entrepreneurs present noted that young people are sorely lacking in entrepreneurial spirit and a sense of innovation as a result of the lack of an entrepreneurial culture in Burundian society. What's more, young people no longer usefully inform themselves, and they don't know how to sort out the priorities in their lives.

The young people have undertaken to change their habits and join forces to strengthen each other. They have set up a committee to collaborate and coordinate their network.

### **5. What benefits do we expect?**

The participants, especially the young people, were given time to assess themselves, which led them to make commitments (as shown in the table above). They then set up a collaboration and coordination committee for their network, which will make it easier to organise their support and entrepreneurial capacity-building.

## **Annexes**

- Photos of activities



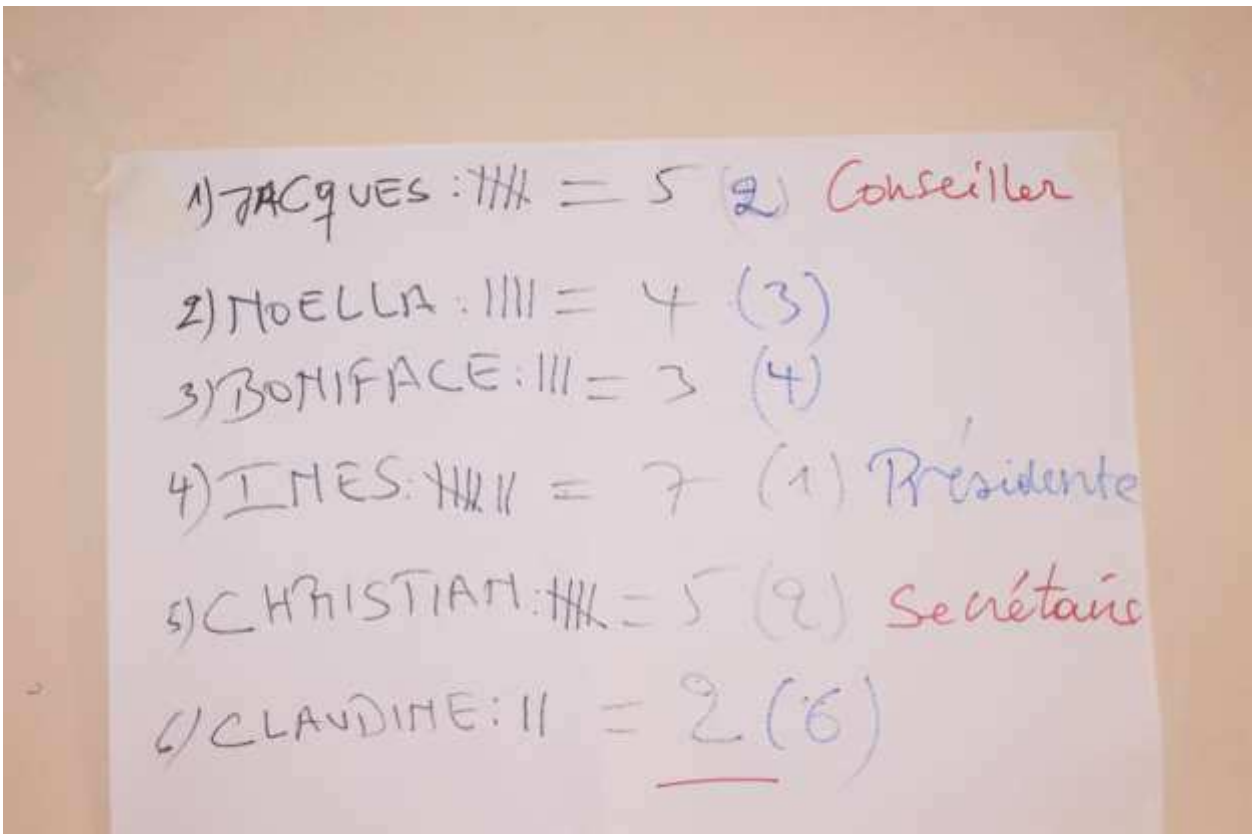
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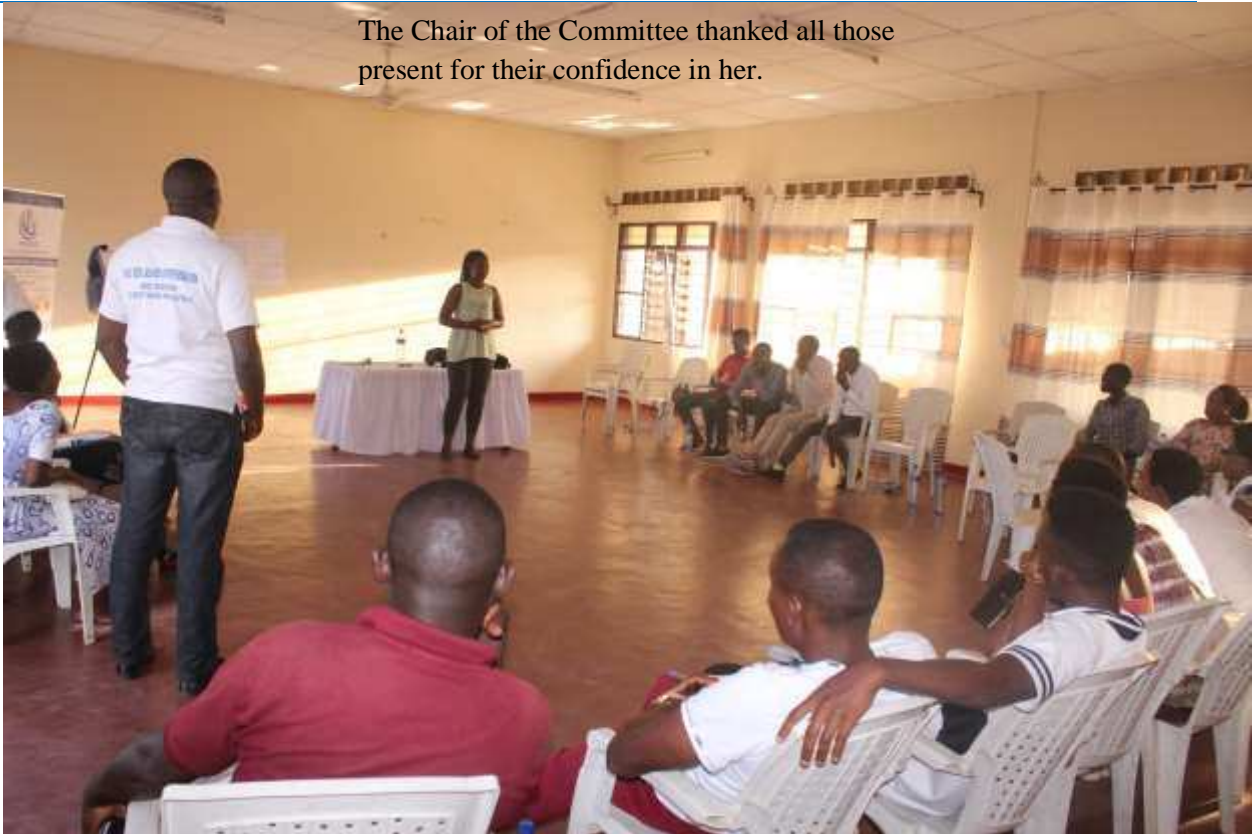
A participant intervenes to support the session leader



Election of the Network  
Collaboration and Coordination



The Chair of the Committee thanked all those present for their confidence in her.



Members of the Network  
Collaboration and Coordination

