

Reflections of the Burkina Faso participants

Since it became independent, Upper Volta, now Burkina Faso, has experienced a tumultuous political history alternating between constitutional and unconstitutional regimes.

Currently, Burkina Faso is going through an unprecedented security and humanitarian crisis, with its corollary of millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs), victims of violence, widows and orphans, many wounded, out-of-school children, etc.

Faced with such a dramatic situation, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have developed a certain form of resilience, and the solidarity shown by the entire population, with the support of the technical and financial partners (PTFs) is quite remarkable. Within the framework of the present training session planned to take place in Cotonou, Benin, we have approached different social categories (civil society organisations, religious and traditional leaders, private and public institutions, administrations, etc.) on the basis of a questionnaire, in order to collect their reflections on the collective wounds of their country, community, region, and living environment. We established a schedule of meetings that enabled us to draw up a list of the wounds that have affected the communities. These wounds are mainly related to education, violence against women, the dehumanisation of certain widows, the killing of members of the Defence and Security Forces (FDS) and of civilians, etc.

Wherever violence has flared up, certain communities have been stigmatised, in some cases being subjected to racial or ethnic profiling.

Initiatives have been developed to combat this problem. To achieve its aims, the Centre for Prevention of Violence and Healing of Memories works to prevent violence and provide support for victims, such as IDPs, and in particular women and children.

IDP victims of violence require support as a matter of urgency in view of the atrocities they have been through and to help them recover from their ordeal and begin to heal their memories. The healing of memories training that we are being offered in this programme is extremely valuable to our country. We have met people at grassroots level, some of whose photos are shown here.

On behalf of the Burkina Faso team,

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We intend to provide further details of the different wounds listed, providing specific cases.

Next, we will look at traditional leaders, seminaries and young people. And then IDP women and children.



Photo 1: Group of hairdressers, with Lucienne Zoma
Wounds: Violence against women, child education



Photo 2: Muezzin, Koranic master and Mosque delegate in the Karpala popular district
Wounds: IDPs, education, religion