

Multigenerational challenges in Integrating Released Genocide Prisoners in Rwanda

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- According to the Rwanda Correctional Services (RCS), in the year 2023, 20,377 prisoners were imprisoned for crimes committed against the Tutsis in 1994. Of these, 4,304 prisoners were sentenced to perpetuity and 16,073 will complete their sentences by the end of the year. of 2056.
- Specifically, in the next five years (2023 -2027), 8,810 inmates.

Re-integrating Released Genocide Prisoners in Rwanda

- Research conducted by Interpeace, Prison Fellowship Rwanda and ILPD (Curriculum for psycho-social reintegration of ex-prisoners in Rwanda) in the year 2021-2022 shows that most of the prisoners who are finishing their sentences face the following challenges:

Re-integrating Released Genocide Prisoners in Rwanda

- 1) They no longer have a relationship with their own families and the families they betrayed due to the shame caused by their bad actions, mistreatment by their spouses, fear and Stigma they receive;
- 2) Loss of trust in them by the Rwandan community as a whole and many consider them to be gone forever or never to return;
- 3) Guilt and shame for some make them not participate in government programs properly, including keeping themselves away from others, whether in meetings or dialogue,

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- 4) Seeing themselves in the mirror of the ideology of Genocide as confirmed by the evidence of Rwanda Investigation Board (RIB) where it showed that 15.7% of those prosecuted for the crimes of the ideology of genocide within a hundred days of Remembering for the 28th time, they had participated in the Genocide against the Tutsis;
- 5) Poverty and poor quality of life based on the fact that most of them are old, have chronic diseases, and do not have the basic skills necessary for the labor market;
- 6) The instability resulting from the crimes they have committed causes many to move from their place of residence to other parts of the country;

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- 7) Family conflicts are mainly based on property and offspring;
- 8) Lack of ability for some to pay for the property they have looted,
- 9) Not getting into government programs etc.

- In addition, this study shows that when the perpetrators of genocide are released without proper preparation, it has a great impact on the survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsis in 1994.
- 10) Increased of their trauma;
- 11) Distrust of their safety;
- 12) Disputes based on Gacaca and others;
- 13) Death and life-threatening for some;

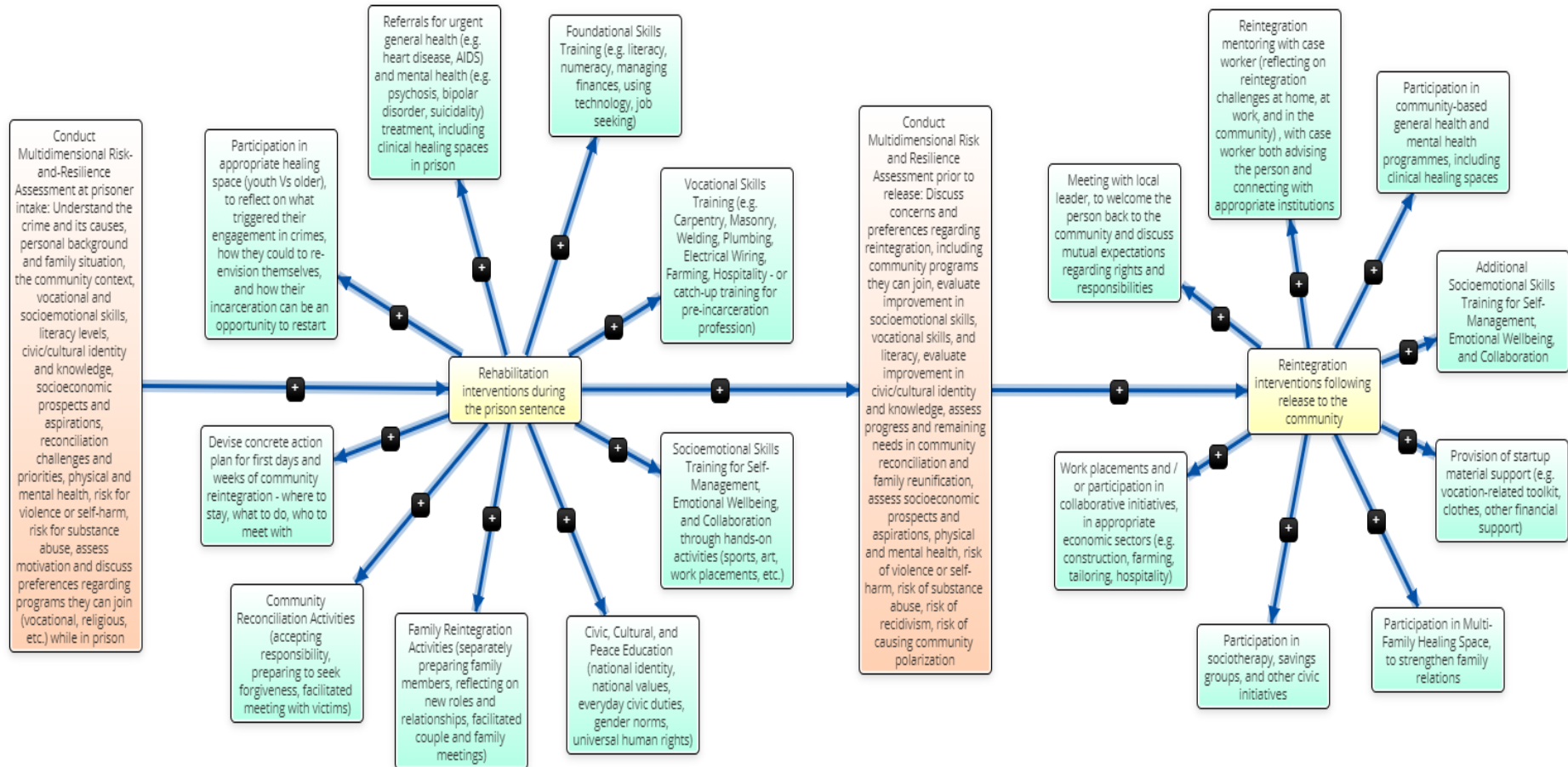
... Impact on the survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsis in 1994. ctd'

- 14) Not telling the truth about some of the crimes they committed in the Genocide, including showing where they put the bodies of those killed in the Genocide that have not been buried in honor;
- 15) Resistance on apologizing and telling the truth etc.



**Prisoner Reintegration and
Reconciliation Road Map by
Interpeace in partnership with Prison
Fellowship Rwanda**

The outline for a multi-stage prisoner reintegration and reconciliation curriculum



Principles for the roadmap

Reconciliation with the community and development of a civic identity are essential prerequisites

- Reconciliation and civic identity development will ensure that the prisoner's release will not exacerbate social tensions, while it will facilitate the reintegration of former perpetrators in the civic and social space of their community.

Acquisition of vocational competencies and soft skills will significantly reduce the risk of relapse

- Prisoners will need to acquire up-to-date vocational competencies to make an independent living in the community – but also soft skills such as self-management and collaboration, if they are to be effective at work and trusted by their supervisors.

Reintegration work should begin in prison, and continue after release

- The reconciliation process and acquisition of competencies can and should begin before release – but all these will only reach full fruition in the period after release, which must be designed in such a way as to provide practical opportunities for social and economic integration.

Principles for prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration

In-depth individualized assessment should be the basis for deciding which prisoners should be assigned to which components of the curriculum

- Not all prisoners have the exact same needs. Individualized assessment will help to ensure that each person is allocated to the groups they can most benefit from, but also more generally to design an individualized reintegration plan that takes into consideration their specific family and community circumstances of each prisoner.

Personalized case management will be required

- Reintegration of prisoners, especially former genocide perpetrators, is a complex challenge. Each prisoner should have case managers, both inside the prison and in the community where they will reintegrate, who can act as mentors in various everyday challenges and ensure access to appropriate resources.

Reconciliation with the community and development of a civic identity are essential prerequisites

- Reconciliation with the community and development of a civic identity are essential prerequisites
- Reasons why it is important:
 - The individual gains awareness, civic competence, and engagement in issues related to democracy, conflict, human rights, governance, constitutionalism, and nation building.
 - It encourages a non-violent conflict resolution and promotes a national identity while it discourages partisan and ethnic polarizations
 - It helps with the adaptation to changing socio-economic and political conditions, with the representation and protections of individual's rights and interests, and respect the rights and interests of other people.

Local leaders

Local leaders welcome the person back to the community

Mentoring

Reintegration mentoring with case worker about appropriate institutions

Material support

Start-up material support when needed

Placements

Participate in work placements

Resilience therapy

Participation in community based general health programs (resilience-oriented therapy)

Multi-family spaces

Participation in multi-family healing spaces

Sociotherapy

Participation in sociotherapy, saving groups and other civic initiatives

Emotional skills

Additional socio-emotional skills training for self-management, emotional wellbeing and collaboration

Reintegration Goals



- **Murakoze**

- **Thank you for your kind Attention**