CISR Donates 200 Mobile Phones to Peer-support Workers

Cameron Macauley
CISR
violent crime and political instability. These weapons contribute to conflict.11 These weapons contribute to conflict. A group of children want to see the muzungu CEDAC Operations Coordinator Joël Nibigira on their way to visit peer-support workers in Bugarama, Burundi. A woman with one arm is nobody—people act as if she’s not working, I think about the people that I’m trying to help,” said Candide Nsabiyumva. “Knowing that I can make a difference in their lives is an inspiration for me.”

The results are impressive. Although quantitative data is still being compiled, interviews with 16 randomly selected survivors showed that participants have enthusiastically positive opinions of the services received.

“This is a very lonely and sad period since I lost my arm during the violence that devastated my community. A woman with one arm is nobody—people act as if she doesn’t exist. But my peer-support worker cares about me, wants me to feel better. She has made me think about myself differently. When I talk to her, I feel as if my life has meaning once again.” — Languide Nsabiyumva

For peer-support workers, work days are long and arduous as many homes are remote and accessible only on foot. Yet, the rewards of helping others make every step worthwhile. “Even when I’m not working, I think about the people that I’m trying to help,” said Candide Nsabiyumva. “Knowing that I can make a difference in their lives is an inspiration for me.”

CEDAC collected monitoring and evaluation data on hundreds of survivors that will be analyzed during the next few months and used to improve program activities in 2013. “Each day brings new refinements to this program,” says Eric Niragira. “We look forward to expanding into new communities and eventually helping the entire nation. We are assisting each other to recover from Burundi’s violent past.”

See endnotes page 66