Vision

Our Vision is to promote sustainable peace in the Great Lakes Region of African post-conflict communities by engaging young people in the political and socio-economic life of their societies.

We practice a holistic approach to youth education and action which is grounded in a commitment to the principles of human rights, community-building, reconciliation and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Mission

Our mission is to empower young people for social change and development.

Core Values

1. Our core values are built on a holistic approach to youth education and action which is grounded in a commitment to the principles of human rights, community-building, reconciliation and peaceful resolution of conflicts,
2. Creating a future of hope and possibility for our communities by educating and empowering the young adults and giving them opportunities to fulfill their potentials.
3. As a potential resource, young adults deserve to be involved and invested in all activities that shape a peaceful society to ensure the continuity of useful programs of our community.

Our challenge and motivation

The devastating impact of the 1994 genocide still reverberates throughout Rwandan society. The democratic process in Rwanda remains heavily constrained, ideologies of genocide predominant in many communities, and the implementation of universal basic education for all continues to pose a major challenge. The legacy of genocide has left Rwanda with thousands of orphans, many of them live in and on the streets; thousands of people in jail, with family structures destroyed, unable to provide the basic rights, as a result, young people are exposed to abuse and a tragic vicious cycle of poverty.

In response to the complex problems of post-conflict reconstruction and the challenges of reconciliation, we are taking a multifaceted approach towards achieving peace for the African Great Lakes region.
**Amani AFRICA** envisions a future in which youth live together in harmony and peaceful coexistence, have access to education, life skills and other extracurricular opportunities, and are empowered to make independent decisions for their future.

**Our background**

Amani Africa was created in 2005 under the names of Amahoro Great Lakes in Rwanda by young people with a focus of participating in solving the problems surrounding them. It was created with a vision of providing hope to the most vulnerable young people in the communities and empowering them to become self-sustaining and good leaders that promote and protect human rights and hence live in peaceful coexistence.

Ten years after the atrocities that killed nearly one million people, the small landlocked country of Rwanda is now being hailed as a model of post-conflict reconstruction in Africa. It is evident that the small African country has made tremendous progress since the devastation of 1994 Genocide and the government is continuously praised for its commitment to bringing about peace and stability in a war-torn region. However, right now is actually the most critical time in Rwanda’s healing process due to the following factors:

**Rwanda’s current population is 9.3 million, but it is estimated to double by the year 2020, with 60% of the population below the age of 20. Rwanda is the most densely populated and the most impoverished country in Africa, in order to grow from poverty to middle income, Rwanda’s poor must have access to the resources and opportunities for development. The young people as the large portion of the population is strong, vibrant and energetic. They offer the greatest hope of making and improving the course of the Nation’s life if given knowledge, tools and support.**

Addressing the unique problems and challenges facing this demographic is a vital necessity if we are to ensure that this type of tragedy is never repeated. The pervasive hopelessness facing unemployed and disadvantaged youth creates a dangerous environment in which they are susceptible to ethnic tensions and genocidal ideology therefore, empowering young people is the only to sustainable peace and development.

**ACTIVITIES 2005 – 2008**

1. **Weekly socio-cultural activities**
Weekly socio-cultural activities are coordinated by 30 trained volunteers under the supervision of the Amani’s permanent staff.
Amani believes in the power of sports and culture to reunify any society based on its power to create friendships, fair plays and develop human understanding of differences and conflicts and how to resolve them. We create sports, art and culture clubs to help us pass messages of unity and reconciliation and hence promote peace values among youth.
I like soccer, I like playing. It gives me good health and helps me meet my friends and socialize. I am now back to school and am happy through sports; I was able to join school.

I have seen the transformative power of sport to change young people’s life. I am leading my club and have developed skills in leading other young people’s group. I’m happy Amani chose me to be a peer leader. I am in primary 5 and I hope to become a lawyer and help children who are oppressed and end injustices.

Amahoro (Peace) Youth clubs

We have been able to set up 10 high school clubs and 5 primary school clubs since the year 2006. Both students in Primary and secondary school (high school) organize the Amahoro Youth Clubs. These teenagers typically also participate in the Amani sports and cultural activities, but the clubs allow them to expand on their participation in peace-building activities.

The activities of the clubs vary depending on the specific interests and talents of members. We encourage the teenagers to take ownership of these clubs and tailor them to their particular skills and passions. We provide them with the skills through peer leader workshops and train teachers and coaches to help them.
3. Sponsorship program

We have been paying for 250 students enrolled in both primary and secondary schools and we are focusing on increasing the number by 100% students by the year 2010. We have also received 10 of our beneficiaries from high school graduates who will be joining University level the year 2009.

4. Nyamirambo Home for Street kids

Amani Africa in partnership with the Sport for peace foundation currently operates a home for street children in the Nyamirambo neighborhood in Kigali. All of the young residents are orphans who had been living on the streets before coming to the Nyamirambo Home for Children.
Workshops, conferences and seminars

In order to network with other stakeholders involved in AMANI AFRICA domains of activities, it is very important to organise seminars, conferences and workshops to exchange experiences with partners, clubs, teachers and stakeholders or participate in such activities, whether in Rwanda or in International Forums. We have been able to conduct different workshops, conferences, debate conferences and participated in International and regional events like; the Homeless World Cup, the 2nd Afro – Arab youth festival and conducted different speaking events to speak about Rwanda’s progress after Genocide.

In these conferences, we work hand in hand with the National Youth Council and the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission as well as schools and districts authorities.

5. Public awareness campaigns
Amani Africa organises public campaigns to reach out to communities on issues like reconciliation, child rights, sexual and gender based violence and HIV/AIDS as threats of child development and well being.
According to the AMANI AFRICA strategic plan, sports and cultural celebrations are planned at the occasion of the following events:

- **The Christmas Eve**
  Every year in December, AMANI AFRICA organizes a one-week campaign to raise awareness on the role of Sports in peace building and how intercultural dialogue can end impunity. Sports and cultural tournaments are held around various activities and youth from the region are invited to participate. The activities range from sports to drama, singing, dancing and dialogue:

- **The International Women’s Day**
  Every year, Amani AFRICA organizes a one-week campaign to raise awareness against women’s rights abuse, with a special focus on promoting girl child rights. Sports and cultural tournament are also held alongside other various activities such as:
The African child day

In Soweto, South Africa, thousands of black school children took to the streets in 1976, in a match more than half a mile long, to protest the inferior quality of their education and to demand their right to be taught in their own language. Hundreds of young boys and girls were shot down; and in the two weeks of protest that followed, more than a hundred people were killed and more than a thousand were injured.

To honor the memory of those killed and the courage of all those who marched, the Day of the African Child has been celebrated on 16 June every year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the Organization of African Unity. The Day also draws attention to the lives of African children today.

Amani Africa have dedicated this day to campaign for the child rights and provide the voice to children.

The international peace day


The resolution: "Declares that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day...

"Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire."

Amani Africa as an organization that focuses on peace, reconciliation and human rights take it to the grassroots to celebrate the achievements but also to look back on the issues surrounding the community and the society where the day is being celebrated.

Depending on the theme of the year, Amani Africa focuses on youth during its celebration and use different activities to campaign for different issues.
The purpose of the activities focuses on:

- Informing young people about the background and genesis of the 21st September celebration and what it means to them.
- Sensitize the public with focus on young people on the relationship between violence and peace, human rights, democracy and reconciliation.
- Create exchange forums between youth and authorities on peace and violence issues.

Networking, Regional and International integration

Every year Amani have been organizing a socio-cultural event between young people from Burundi and Rwanda. Peace and human rights campaigns have run through such events.

The Homeless World Cup
Amani Africa has a privileged to belong to the big network of the Homeless World Cup and have participated in 2006 and 2008 editions respectively and was able to win the community Cup in the 2008 competitions in Melbourne.
Human Rights Work
In partnership with the Global youth connect, a delegation of young Americans came to Rwanda for post conflict reconciliation and human rights workshop for 115 days in June 2008.

Young people in the workshop among other things that included the Genocide memorial Site visits, Gacaca courts participation, various discussions with Human rights commission, Unity and Reconciliation Commission, IRDP and student researches were conducted.
Orientation session at the Nyamirambo Home for street children.

Ntarama and Nyamata Genocide memorial sites visit in Bugesera District