

Strengthening Impact and Collaborations In Africa

Local Voices: Global Movement



*"In Africa, there is a concept known as ubuntu- the profound sense that we are human only through the humanity of others; that if we are to accomplish anything in this world, it will in equal measure be due to the work and achievement of others." **Nelson Mandela***

At the heart of Ubuntu lies the profound understanding that our humanity is intertwined; it teaches us that our well-being is inseparable from the well-being of others. URI embodies this philosophy, championing **peace, justice, and healing** for the Earth and all living beings.

Africa, which is one of URI's 8 regions, has a growing movement of over **280** Cooperation Circles, spread across the continent and committed to URI's mission of promoting enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, ending religiously motivated violence, and creating cultures of peace, justice, and healing for the Earth and all living beings.

URI Africa has 280 Cooperation Circles and is divided into four zones: Southern Africa, Great Lakes, West Africa, and the Horn of Africa.

In this newsletter, we celebrate the inspiring stories of individuals and groups

who are making a difference. We share insights on interfaith dialogue and highlight our collective efforts to foster a more harmonious and sustainable world.

Thank you for being part of this vital journey as a friend, donor, well-wisher, Cooperation Circle member, individual member, or staff. Your support makes this work possible!

URI in the Great Lakes Region



In the Great Lakes region, the URI regional office is implementing a women's and girls' rights program in a local community in Eastern Uganda.

This collaborative initiative involves Filantropia, Sufi women's organization, FINGO, a Finnish organization, and the Muslim Centre for Justice and Law.

To date, 15 Cooperation Circles have benefited from capacity training focused on gender-based violence and violent extremism.

With support from Filantropia, 120 women in Eastern Uganda have received training in property rights, specifically targeting those who have experienced domestic violence or were denied access to property ownership.

Additionally, 30 girls have been assisted in returning to school through a self-help project implemented by two Cooperation Circles, supported by the Great Lakes regional office.

As a result of these efforts, 70 women have established small-scale businesses that not only support their families' income but also contribute to their children's education.

- 70 Women have been supported to start small-scale businesses
- 30 young girls have been supported to return to school
- 120 women trained in property rights and violence prevention.
- 15 Cooperation Circles benefited from capacity training



URI Great Lakes Regional Need

Your support in the Great Lakes region will help us;

- Train and provide resources to Cooperation Circles in violence prevention
- Fund youth-led community and cross-regional dialogue
- To set up youth hubs in the Great Lakes region, that is, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Burundi, DRC, and Rwanda
- To provide interfaith leadership and training opportunities
- Support global exchange and learning programs and collaboration efforts
- Support local environmental initiatives
- Fund mentorship programs for emerging women leaders
- Run the Great Lakes regional office

A monthly, quarterly, and annual gift amplifies women's leadership, youth engagement, care for Mother Earth, and promotes peace, justice, and healing in this region. Join us in creating lasting change.

To Donate

Lets Talk More

URI in the Horn of Africa



- 50 rural women trained in leadership, community engagement, and environmental awareness



Empowering Women In Assamo, Djibouti

50 rural women participated in training workshops, discussions, and action planning activities in Assamo.

"This program gave us the confidence to speak up, share our experiences, and work together to improve our community. We feel empowered and connected to a larger network of women leaders."

The participants gained skills in leadership, community engagement, local development



planning, and environmental awareness.

This initiative helped build confidence among the rural women, fostered solidarity with women leaders, and created opportunities for greater participation in community life.

Art to engage Young people

URI Horn of Africa works to raise awareness among young students about conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and harmonious living. These initiatives foster tolerance, solidarity, and civic responsibility, empowering students to become active promoters of peace and social cohesion in their communities.

The reading and visual arts for children initiative encourages children to read and develop a love for books, promotes artistic expression as a means of non-violent communication, promotes self-confidence and teamwork among young individuals, and provides a space for relaxation, creativity, and inclusive learning.

Youth engagement through art reflects several core principles of URI, such as:

- Creating cultures of peace and justice through education and art.
- Empowering young people to become agents of change.
- Promoting intercommunity cooperation and respect for diversity.
- Supporting cultural and linguistic rights through artistic expression.

URI Call to Support the Horn of Africa

Your support in the URI Horn of Africa region will help us;

- Expand local peacebuilding efforts in this region, including Somalia
- Fund grassroots peacebuilding initiatives implemented by local cooperation circles
- Train and provide resources to Cooperation Circles in violence prevention
- Fund youth-led community and cross-regional dialogue
- Fund women-led leadership and economic training and support initiatives
- To provide interfaith leadership and training opportunities
- Fund mentorship programs for emerging women leaders
- Run the Horn of Africa regional office

Join us in creating lasting change.

To Donate

Lets Talk More

URI in West and Southern Africa

- 40 youth participated in a dialogue in



Engaging Young People in Southern Africa

Angels Nest Southern Africa Cooperation Circle, with support from the URI Seed Grant, hosted a Youth Cafe, a dialogue event.

40 young people in Gauteng, raising awareness on issues of human rights, peace, security, and climate change

Youth Action In Climate Change- Malawi

ASHED, a recipient of the URI seed grant, implemented the Youth Action in Climate Change Response in Interfaith Perspectives (YACRIP) project.

This initiative aimed to empower youth in the Lunzu area, regardless of their faith, to take action against climate change through tree planting.

The project also sought to bridge religious differences in addressing climate change. On the tree planting day, 40 households participated, resulting in the planting of a total of 4,500 trees along the Maoni River.

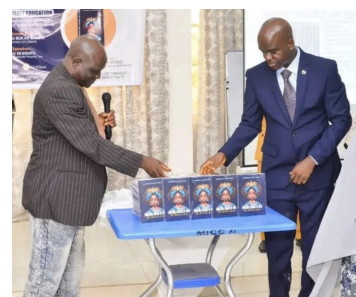
Peace to the Girl Project in Nigeria

URI Individual Member Nkechika Ibe, with Impact Her World Foundation and support from the URI Seed Grant, implemented Peace to the Girl Child through Period Kits, training young girls from low-income communities and slum areas in public schools on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, while creating access to sanitary products for a dignified menstrual experience through our period kits.

Education for vulnerable children

The Mulapnen Capacity Building Initiative, a Cooperation Circle in Nigeria, believes that education is a fundamental right for every child.

- South Africa
- 4,500 trees along the Maoni River.
- 40 households engaged in tree planting in Lunzu, Malawi
- 40 children in Nigeria receive scholarships



However, many children in rural areas, especially those affected by incarceration and conflict in Plateau State, lack access to quality education.

To address this issue, the initiative provides scholarships to vulnerable children.

Currently, 40 children are benefiting from our scholarship program. This program covers tuition fees, educational materials, and other support services to ensure that these children receive a quality education. Our goal is to empower them to break the cycle of poverty and become productive members of their communities.



Your support in the URI West and Southern Africa region will help us;

- Expand local peacebuilding efforts in this region
- Fund grassroots peacebuilding initiatives implemented by local cooperation circles
- Support Cooperation Circles address unique challenges like access to education
- Fund youth engagement in violence prevention, earth restoration, women empowerment, and interfaith initiatives
- Fund mentorship programs for emerging women leaders
- Ensure that administrative costs are met and programs implemented

Join us in creating lasting change.

[To Donate](#)

[Lets Talk More](#)

Building Connections and Collaborations Across Africa

URI at the G20 Interfaith Forum in South Africa



This August, URI was proud to take part in the G20 Interfaith Forum (G20IF) held in Cape Town, South Africa, a global gathering that brings together religious leaders, policymakers, academics, and grassroots peacebuilders to explore the role of faith in addressing today's most urgent challenges.

More than 20 members from the URI network were in attendance.



URI's participation highlighted the power of grassroots interfaith cooperation in preventing violence, promoting justice, and healing communities.

Through panels and informal exchanges, URI shared stories from across its global network, demonstrating how dialogue, trust, and shared action are building peace in practical, community-led ways.

Grace Chilongo, URI member from Malawi and Merylene Chitharai, URI member from South Africa, spoke on a panel titled "The Impact of Theology and Advocacy in Action," where they shared about their work as climate activists, bringing faith communities together to advocate for local climate actions. [Read More>](#)

URI Africa and COFP Partner for Peace Efforts in Africa

The United Religions Initiative (URI) - Africa and the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

to advance peace-building efforts in Africa.

This agreement was established during the 2025 Interfaith Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme



“Africa’s Faith

Communities: Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union Agenda 2063, and South Africa’s 2025 G20 Process.”

The MoU was signed by Ambassador Mussie Hailu, URI's Regional Director for Africa, and Sr. Agatha O. Chikelue, Executive Director of COFP.

It aims to promote inclusive peace-building approaches that are responsive to gender and youth, leveraging the strengths of communities to foster social cohesion and sustainable peace. [Read More>](#)

Join us and Let's journey together, for peace, justice, and healing for the Earth and all living beings worldwide

Every contribution matters.

A donation starting at \$5 per month makes a difference.

**Together, we can stand strong, end violence,
and heal our communities.**

Your contribution + URI = A Positive Future for Peace, Justice, and Healing.

Click Here to Support URI Efforts Worldwide. Thank You!

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