REDUCTION OF HEALTH AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISKS, FIGHT AGAINST HEPATITIS B AND C AND HUMAN RIGHT AMONG DRUG USERS IN BURUNDI

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Background:
The Burundian Association for a World of Peace without Drugs (ABMPD) created in 2017, has been strengthened in its capacity for interventions with people who use drugs (PUD) since September 2021, by a triple expertise in Harm Reduction: The Alliance Burundi against AIDS, Frontline AIDS and Doctors of the World France mission Tanzania-Kenya.

Methods:
The first activities centered on drug abstinence of the ABMPD evolved towards the acceptance of the reality of the use of psychoactive substances, the non-judgment of the consumers and the objectivity of the small step in the activities of proximity. In order to create an environment conducive to harm reduction interventions related to drug use, HIV prevention and the fight against hepatitis B and C, the leaders, community mobilizers and peer educators of the ABMPD cooperate with the administrations of the Ministries directly involved in PWUD issues

Results:
- The Ministry of Security: the Anti-Drug Police Unit, the Municipal Police of Bujumbura City Hall authorize the assistance of the PWUD during arrests and detentions.
- The Ministry of Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, which supports initiatives for income-generating activities and the protection of rights.
- The Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, through its national HIV/STI, hepatitis B and C and TB programs, for the integration of HR into multi-year strategic plans. Thus, despite very repressive national legislation for PWUD, field interventions take place with the support and guidance of various local and national authorities.

Conclusion:
The challenges to be met will be those of the evolution of social paradigms, the modification of the Penal Code in force, as well as the ministerial ordinance relating to prohibited substances which listed Methadone.