

# SOUTH SUDANESE RECONCILIATION IN ADJUMANI, UGANDA

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# OUR VISION

**“RECREATING RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS among JRS teams, among the refugees we serve, and between refugees and host communities.”**

# OUR GOALS



**To promote faith-based reconciliation as integral part of the JRS mission**



**Establish projects for reconciliation, tailored for the local context**



**Support and strengthen the capacities of JRS teams, refugees and host communities**

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**LEARNING COMMUNITY**

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# RECONCILIATION PROJECT ADJUMANI-UGANDA

## CONFLICT ASSESSMENT

- Tensions between refugees and host communities mainly over natural resources .
- Tensions among the refugees themselves due to lack of tolerance and rejection of those who are 'different', usually based on tribal identity.
- Principal perpetrators within settlements and between refugees and local residents are reportedly young men. Negative perceptions and attitudes towards young people.



*Uganda has welcomed no less than **1,233,033** refugees in its territory, including **801,555** South Sudanese.*

# PROJECT GOALS

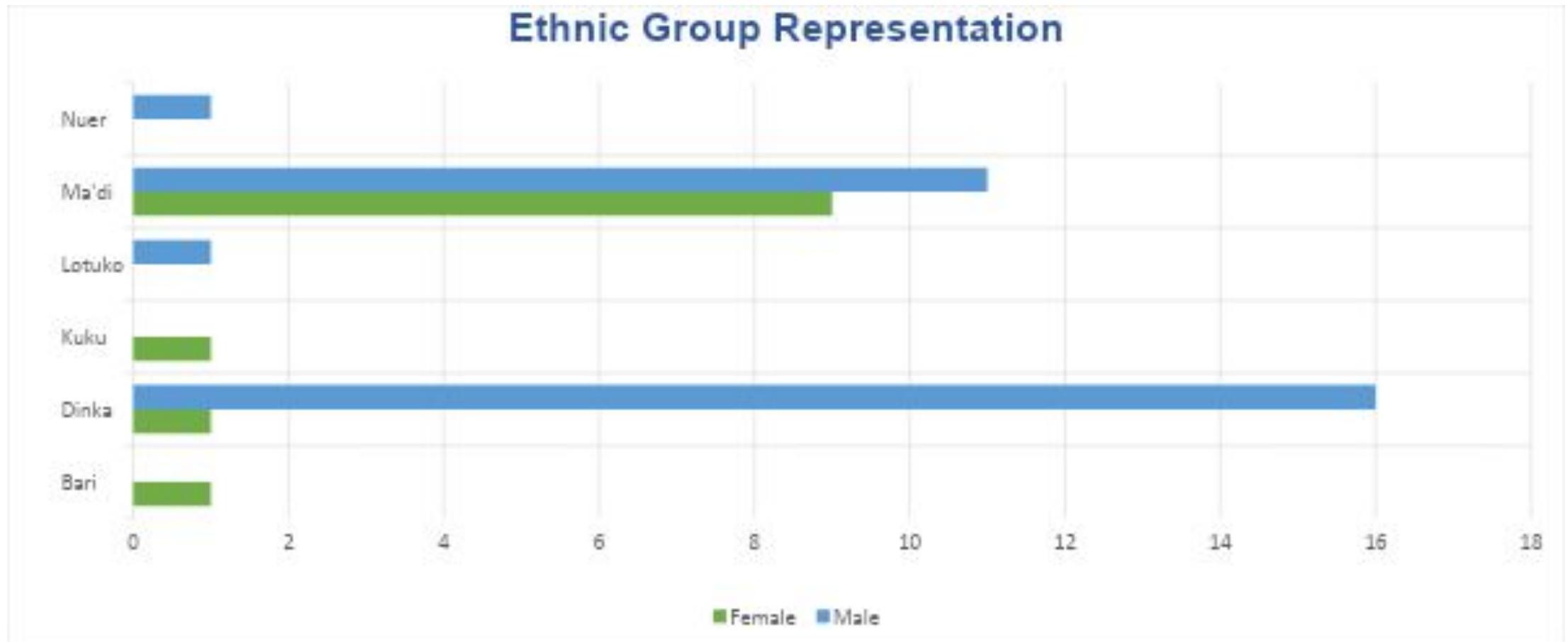
*To create a solid foundation for living together among refugees and host communities by promoting diversity as a positive dynamic for reconciliation and by building the capacity of JRS staff, youth, teachers, and religious leaders.*

To contribute to the reduction of negative attitudes towards youth by building a trusting relationship with 60 youth from different tribal groups and by forming them as teams to become role models for their peers and to do effective outreach in their communities.



# SELECTION OF THE YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

- JRS has invited the participation of the community leaders for selecting the beneficiaries of the process



# Building Relationships in Challenging Contexts



## *Training Manuals and workshop*

- *Module 1: Who am I?*
- *Module 2: Who is the other?*
- *Module 3: How do we deal with our pain?*
- *Module 4: Envisioning a future*
- *Module 5: What can we do to move forward?*

Participants of the workshop Adjumani 2019

# Module 1: Who am I? Identifying the conditions that have shaped us

**Purpose of the session:** We hope that this process will lead to the formation of a “platform of trust” or a “safe space” for the exploration of a set of emotionally difficult topics.

- ❖ Create a safe space
- ❖ Build trust among participants
- ❖ Identify the key influences on their lives.
- ❖ Begin to listen to the stories



# Module 2: Who is the other? Learning to hear the story of the other

**Purpose of the session:** We thus hope to help participants come to some awareness of the similarities they share rather than only focus on the differences that separate them.

- ❖ Empathy building
- ❖ Storytelling
- ❖ Reflect on “out-group bias”



# Module 3: How do we deal with our pain? Overcoming destructive anger and exploring the possibility of forgiveness

**Purpose of the session:** To help participants see ways in which anger, a desire for revenge, and hatred can be destructive and to think about how to deal with negative emotions in constructive ways

- ❖ Empathy building
- ❖ Storytelling
- ❖ Reflect on “out-group bias”



# Module 4: Envisioning a future: How can we build bridges? Moving from “us” and “them” to “us”

**Purpose of the session:** To move the participants into a deeper discussion of what it means to forgive and how it might benefit victims as well as perpetrators and their wider communities.

- ❖ The meaning of forgiveness
- ❖ Religious traditions of forgiveness
- ❖ Forgiveness and healing
- ❖ Ubuntu



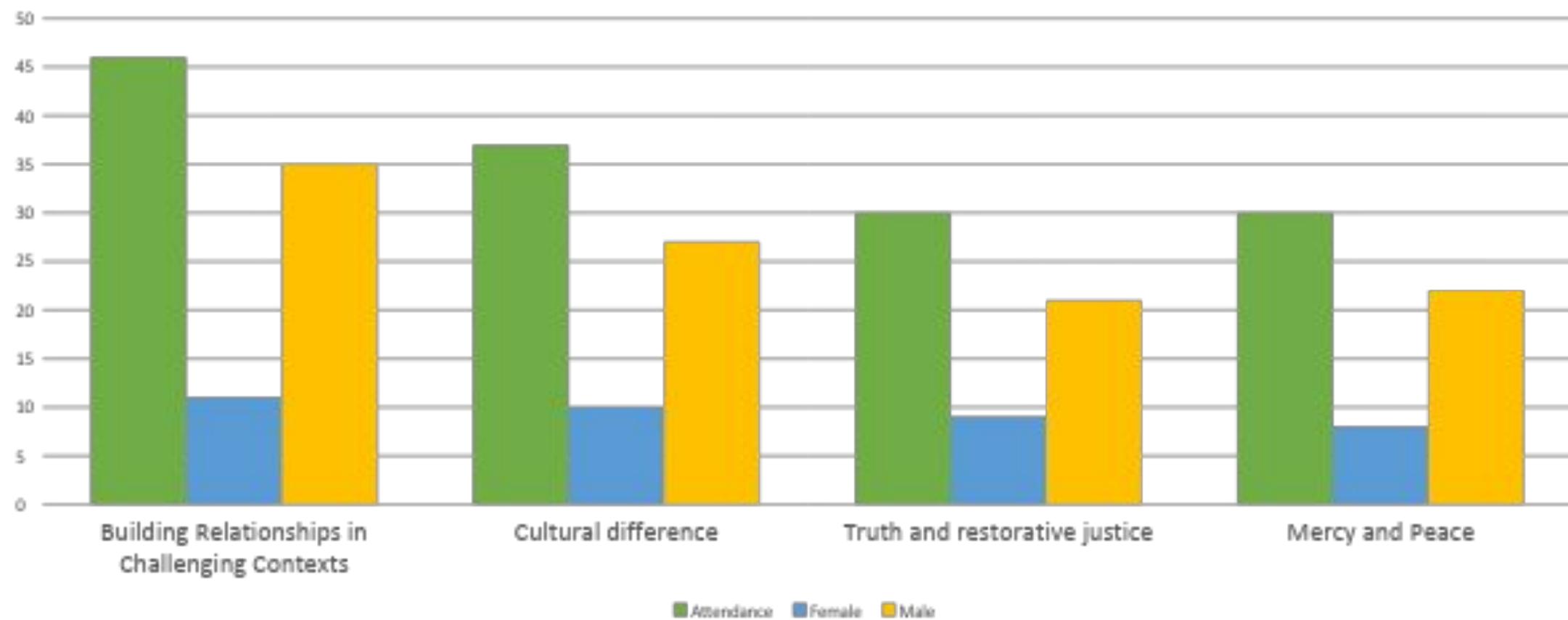
# Module 5: What can we do to move forward? Promoting resilience and hope together

**Purpose of the session:** to encourage participants to develop a positive sense of wanting to move forward with new insights, respect for one another, and a shared commitment to cooperation and peace in their relationships and communities.

- ❖ Peacebuilding: From personal trauma to advocacy
- ❖ Creating a space of peace
- ❖ Moving toward the future with hope



Workshops Data



# Impact in the Process of Reconciliation

- Settle the ground for the creation of safe and shared space
- Creation of bonds among the youth
- Development of a sense of togetherness
- Acknowledgment of our shared humanity
- Strengthen hope
- Increase expectations



***Lessons  
Learned:***

***A Word of  
Self-Criticism***



# Reconciliation: Build on the first stone dropped

- Accompaniment on regular basis
- 03 other workshops have been conducted: Cultural difference, Truth and Restorative justice and Mercy and Peace
- Radio Talk show on Reconciliation (It lasted 03 months)
- Development of a socio-economic activity (in 01 settlement)



# ...Future projects...



# Resilience: the consolidation of reconciliation process

- Resilience is important for youth in as:
- Conflict might occur again
- Pain of the past might be triggered
- Environment is challenging
- Hope need to be maintained



# Fostering Resilience and Hope in Eastern Africa



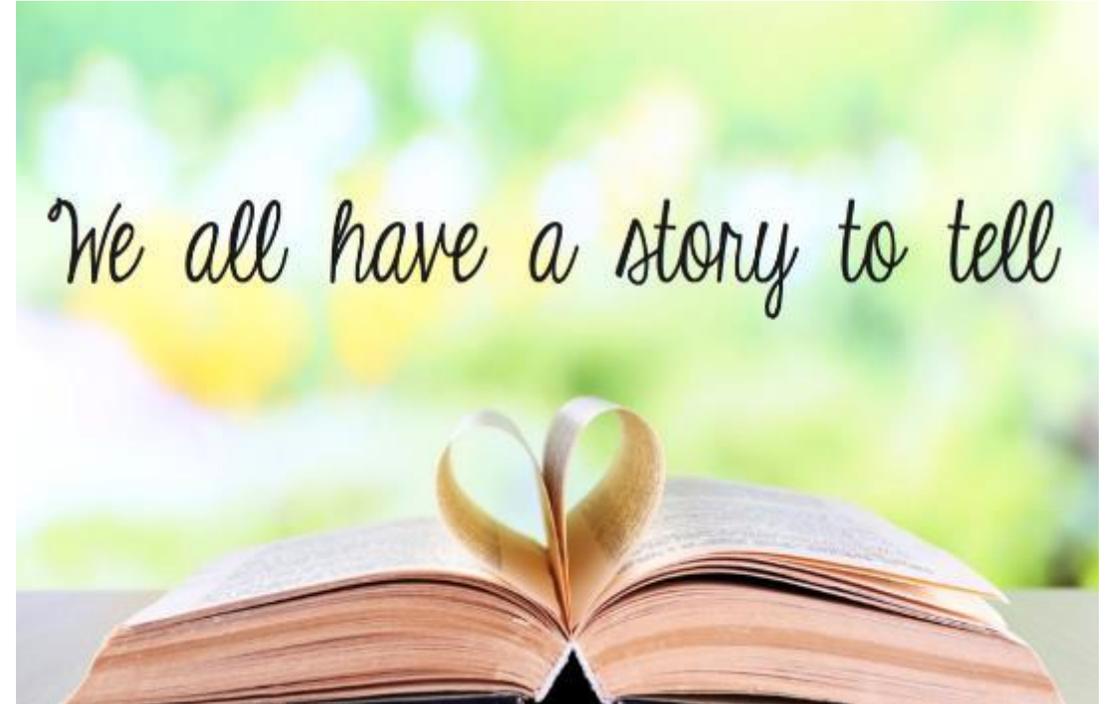
## *Training Manuals and workshop*

- *Module 1: Our Lives as Stories*
- *Module 2: Identifying our Personal Resources for Resilience and Hope*
- *Module 3: Our Story is Part of a Much Larger Story: Community, Faith, and Hope*

# Module 1: Our Lives as Stories

**Purpose:** To encourage participants to share their own stories and better appreciate how they draw meaning from the story of their lives.

- a) Our stories: exploring meaning
- b) Narrative disruptions: when meaning is shaken
- c) Resilience: How to bounce back?



# Encountering Crisis: Meaning and Disruption

Connection between our stories and  
Meaning



Disrupted lives, disrupted stories:  
When Meaning is shaken



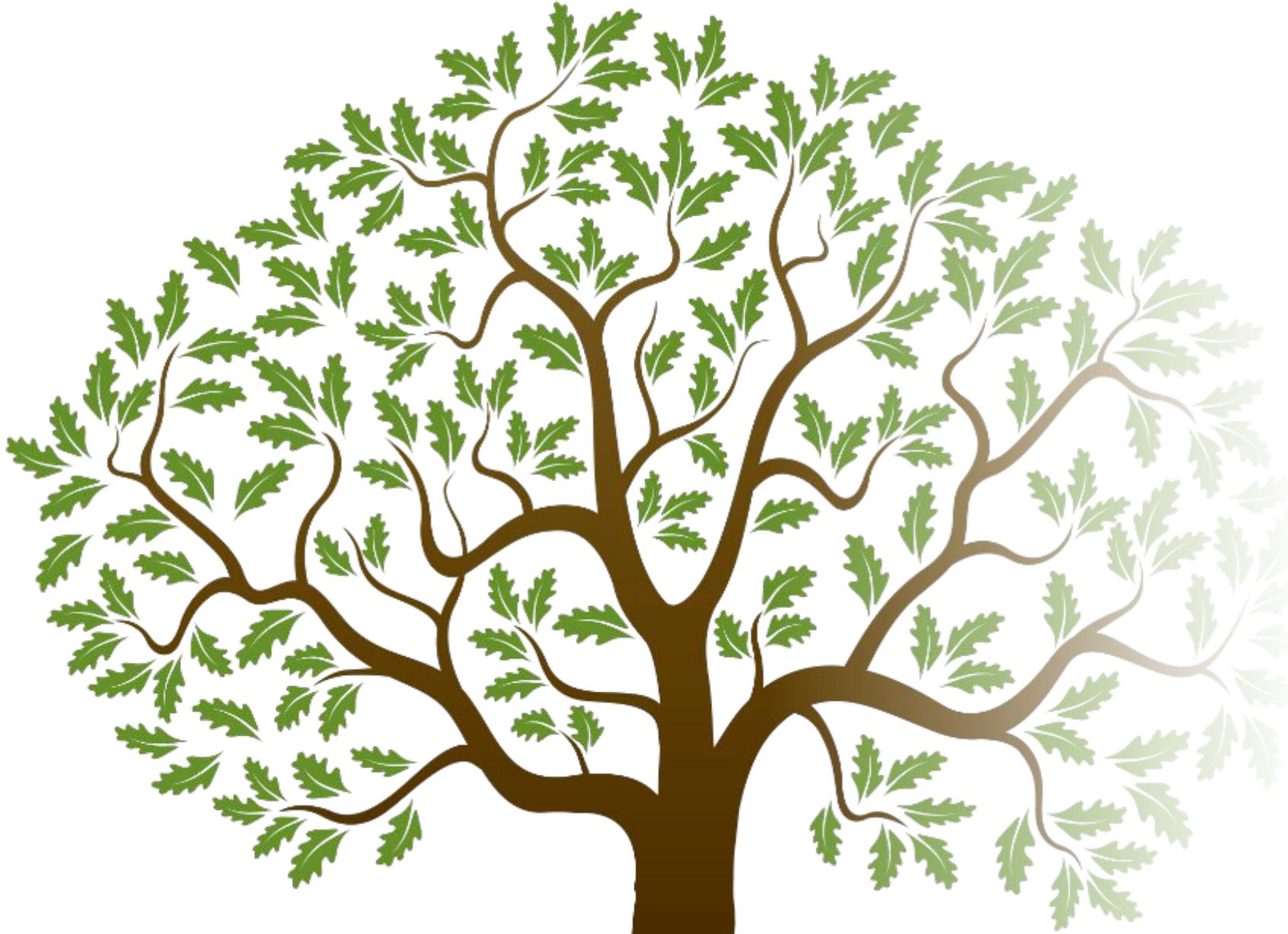
# Module 2: Identifying our Personal Resources for Resilience and Hope

**Purpose:** To grasp the value of resilience and identify those personal abilities and gifts that allow us to overcome life's disruptions, and to explore new skills that may enable us to bounce back.

- a) What is resilience? ... In our own words
- b) Identifying what gifts and skills we already have to bounce back.
- c) Acknowledging our strengths and vulnerabilities (Serenity prayer)



# My Personal Sources of Meaning and Hope



- ❖ Family/Relationships
- ❖ Community
- ❖ Faith
- ❖ History/Culture
- ❖ Nature
- ❖ Exploring new skills and abilities: flexibility, patience, responsibility, team work

# Module 3: Our Story is Part of a Much Larger Story: Community, Faith, and Hope

**Purpose:** To demonstrate that while each person is unique and important, we become stronger when constituted as a community of solidarity and faith. Faith not only help us cope with pain and loss because it offers meaning to our lives, but it also enable us to build a new future

- a) Emmaus Story: From Crisis to Hope
- b) The Power of Community
- c) Lives that Produce Hope



# Resilience: Walking with God and Each Other

Forming inclusive communities: Unity  
in Diversity



Becoming Hope for Each Other





# Module 1: Who am I? Identifying the conditions that have shaped us

**1.) Purpose of the session:** We hope that this process will lead to the formation of a “platform of trust” or a “safe space” for the exploration of a set of emotionally difficult topics.

## **2.) Objectives:**

- To introduce participants to one another and the whole community participating in the workshop;
- To build with the participants a social covenant that will facilitate open and honest conversation throughout the week;
- To begin to build trust among all participants and to begin the gradual process of building a “platform of trust” or a “safe space” within which all participants can feel free to explore what will be a set of emotionally difficult topics;
- To enable participants to *identify the key influences* on their lives, particularly the ways they have been shaped by particular events and social conditioning;
- To enable participants *begin to listen* to the stories of one another and particularly those whom they have long regarded as opponents or enemies.

## **3.) Exercises:**

- Ice breaker
- Building a social covenant

## Module 2: Who is the other? Learning to hear the story of the other

**1. Purpose of the session:** We thus hope to help participants come to some awareness of the similarities they share rather than only focus on the differences that separate them. This day begins with *empathy-building* through sharing information and stories about one another's lives. Later in the day we will spend some time reflecting on "out-group bias," by which we mean the human tendency to prefer members of their own groups and to be suspicious of members of other groups.

**2. Objectives:** To enable participants both to *grow in their ability to tell their own stories* to others and *to listen to the stories of others* , ***as much as they are willing and able to do so*** , including those whom they have regarded as opponents or enemies ( in the groups where this apply).

### **3. Exercises:**

- Personal identity: Life graph
- Recognizing the causes and effects of out-group bias: "Jane Eliot: A Class Divided"
- Reaching out to the other: The parable of the Good Samaritan
- Concluding exercise

## Module 3: How do we deal with our pain? Overcoming destructive anger and exploring the possibility of forgiveness

1.) **Purpose of the session:** To help participants see ways in which anger, a desire for revenge, and hatred can be destructive and to think about how to deal with negative emotions in constructive ways. The afternoon will turn to the possibility and promise of forgiveness.

### 2.) **Exercises:**

- The “angry snake”
- The desire for peace: The story of Bintou and Gaus from Central African Republic
- Seeing the humanity of the other: Nelson Mandela
- Learning to regard the enemy as human: The story of Alistair Little
- Closing exercise

## Module 4: Envisioning a future: How can we build bridges? Moving from “us” and “them” to “us”

**1. Objective:** Today we would like to move the participants into a deeper discussion of what it means to forgive and how it might benefit victims as well as perpetrators and their wider communities. Forgiveness provides an important basis from which we can build bridges to one another.

### **2. Exercises:**

- The meaning of forgiveness
- Religious traditions of forgiveness
- A case of forgiveness in Rwanda: Immaculee Ilibagiza
- Forgiveness and personal freedom: Candace Mama
- Forgiveness and healing: Desmond Tutu
- Reflection on Ubuntu
- Concluding reflection

## Module 5: What can we do to move forward? Promoting resilience and hope together

**1.) Objective:** We cannot hit the “rewind” button on our pasts, but neither are we trapped in an endless “loop” of the same events over and over. Our pasts do not have to control our futures. The workshop today strives to encourage participants to develop a positive sense of wanting to move forward with new insights, respect for one another, and a shared commitment to cooperation and peace in their relationships and communities. Today we look at some important examples of cooperation, peacebuilding, resilience, and hope.

### **2.) Exercises:**

- Peacebuilding: From personal trauma to advocacy
- Peacebuilding: Creating a space of peace
- Moving toward the future with hope
- Conclusion: Building relationships in challenging contexts