

Assessment of possible ways forward on reparations for victims of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda

Rwanda, with the support of the international community, has made great strides in addressing the terrible crimes committed during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.¹ The work of the Rwandese national Gacaca courts, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and criminal courts abroad (such as in Belgium, Canada, Finland and France) has meant that many of those responsible for those crimes have been tried and brought to justice, thereby fulfilling a primary demand of genocide survivors.

The country's economic progress and the pacification of the country in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide are testaments to the achievements and progress made in the past 20 years.

However, thus far most survivor families have been unable to exercise their rights to an effective remedy; a right enshrined in many human rights instruments and recently confirmed again in the *United Nations Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparations for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law*.

Local victims' and survivors' organizations called upon the ICTR for increased attention to the lack of a comprehensive reparations effort.

Responding to this call, and given IOM's technical expertise in the area of victims' reparations, the President of the ICTR requested that IOM undertake an assessment on potential ways forward, including technical and

operational recommendations, on reparations for victims and survivors of the 1994 genocide.

In identifying the principal options for reparations in the Rwandan context, IOM's approach is pragmatic and takes into account potential hurdles and challenges that need to be considered. For instance, financial resources may be likely limited in relation to the very large community of potential beneficiaries.

IOM's role is that of an objective technical advisor on reparations, drawing on its international experience in both designing and implementing reparations efforts to support local actors with finding the best possible solution(s) suited to Rwanda's unique context.

The Assessment Study is based upon an exhaustive desk review of existing material and broad consultations with stakeholders inside and outside of Rwanda (primarily the survivors' organizations and the relevant Government actors) and relevant national and international entities and experts. The report was finalized and presented to the Government of Rwanda at the end of 2014.

Please note IOM is only exploring feasible options in the Rwandan context and is not in the process of establishing an actual reparations programme, for which IOM currently has neither the mandate nor the resources.

For more information, kindly contact lpr@iom.int

¹ Hereafter referred to as the « 1994 genocide ».