

RADIO

PROJECT



*Integrated Regional Information Networks Radio
(IRIN Radio)*

"Tuyage Twongere" - Let's Talk

**IRIN Radio Burundi Soap Opera Project
Audience Survey**

**Integrated Regional Information Networks Radio (IRIN RADIO)
IRIN Radio Burundi Soap Opera Audience Survey 2004**

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Executive Summary

IRIN Radio's soap opera, entitled ***Tuyage Twongere*** (Let's Talk in Kirundi), was launched in 2003. The drama is written by celebrated Burundian playwright, Marie-Louise Sibazuri, and recorded by refugee actors in the camps in Ngara, western Tanzania. The project is a coproduction by IRIN Radio and Radio Kwizera, the Jesuit Refugee Service community station in Ngara. The series is aired by Kwizera, covering the camps and bordering provinces of Burundi, and by four stations in Burundi - the state broadcaster RTNB, and private FM stations RPA, Culture, and Renaissance.

The project aims to give the refugees a voice on issues of concern to them, and to stimulate dialogue between Burundians in the camps and those at home thereby promoting reconciliation. It also seeks to advocate on gender equality, health, hygiene, human rights and other issues to improve living conditions for Burundian communities.

After six months of weekly broadcasts of the ongoing series, IRIN Radio undertook a mini-evaluation of the impact of the drama by way of an audience survey. Nearly 1,000 respondents in the refugee camps and in Burundi answered a questionnaire in Kirundi, enumerated by IRIN's local correspondents. The survey sought to find out who is listening to the drama, on which station, what they gain from it, whether project goals are being met, and any recommendations.

Just under half of all respondents were women. The respondents were drawn from a cross-section of urban and rural society in Burundi, and from a variety of people in each of the refugee camps in Tanzania. Most respondents were aged between 19-49.

In summary, the survey found:

- 64% of respondents in the refugee camps in Tanzania listen regularly to ***Tuyage Twongere***
- 40% of respondents in Burundi follow the series
- 97% of respondents in Tanzania and Burundi who know the drama say they like it because it is educational, informative, and/or entertaining.
- 86% of those who listen say they have learned something positive about family relations, life skills, the plight of refugees, HIV/AIDS, hygiene, or other issues
- 76% of listeners in the refugee camps say ***Tuyage Twongere*** is a realistic depiction of their lives
- 23% of listeners in Burundi say the series has increased their understanding of the refugees and made them feel more positive about them
- 90% of all respondents say they listen to the radio
- 60% of all respondents have their own radio
- 43% of listeners to the series tune to Radio Kwizera; RPA and RTNB are next most popular stations for listeners to the series

Clearly, ***Tuyage Twongere*** is already popular among listeners in the refugee camps, and after just six months on air is gaining ground with the audience in Burundi. The survey indicates that the project is on track in terms of its objectives, by enabling the refugees' voices to be heard, by stimulating the flow of cross-border information, and by contributing to the 'rapprochement' of divided Burundian communities.

Many listeners requested that the series be aired twice or three times weekly, rather than the current once a week. Some suggested changes to broadcast times on their station of choice. IRIN plans to work with radio partners for a more suitable broadcast schedule in 2005.

Full analysis of the survey findings is contained in the report below. Several in-depth focus group sessions were also held with ***Tuyage Twongere*** listeners in the refugee camps and in Burundi. The results of these focus groups are documented in an adjoining report.

Background

The idea behind IRIN Radio's Burundi soap opera stemmed from the project's experience in Tanzania and Burundi, which revealed the needs of ordinary Burundians for more efficient flows of credible information - both within the camps and between the camps and Burundi.

Drama is a very popular format among Burundians, and one that allows sensitive issues to be broached in a closed society. With the prospect of a pending repatriation of the refugees to Burundi, IRIN developed the concept of its drama project with the following objectives:

- To give the refugees, whose voices were hitherto almost unheard, a say on issues regarding their lives (repatriation, the peace process in Burundi, their problems, difficulties and aspirations);
- To establish a cross-border dialogue between the Burundians at home and those in the refugee camps in western Tanzania;
- To sensitise refugees on issues such as gender equality, gender-based violence, human rights, health, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, hygiene, to help them better their living conditions;
- To promote better understanding and contribute to reconciliation between Burundians at home and those in the refugee camps.

In May 2004, IRIN Radio's radio drama focussing on the lives of Burundian refugees living in the camps in western Tanzania went on air in Tanzania and Burundi. The series, entitled **Tuyage Twongere** (which means Let's Talk in Kirundi) is co-produced with the Jesuit Refugee Service's Radio Kwizera, a community station in Ngara, serving the refugee camps and local communities in Ngara and Kibondo districts.

The drama is researched and written on location in the camps by Marie-Louise Sibazuri, a well-known Burundian playwright, and herself a refugee based in Brussels. During 2004, Sibazuri and the project team (headed by IRIN Radio's senior Burundi Producer, Jocelyne Sambira) conducted three missions to the camps, also visiting neighbouring provinces of Burundi, to research and produce the first 52 episodes of the ongoing series.

The project team develops the storyline and interposition of themes in the drama using a highly participatory and interactive approach: focus groups are organised with refugees in the camps, to enable them to express their daily problems and issues of concern. The voices of women and men, girls and boys, are incorporated into the drama. First drafts are read back to groups of refugees for their input and approval.

Sibazuri has selected and trained a group of actors from an existing refugee drama group in Ngara to enact **Tuyage Twongere**. Under her direction, the refugee actors record the scripts she has written in the new Radio Kwizera studio equipped by IRIN. The project technician has trained Kwizera staff to make the recordings using the latest digital equipment. The technician edits the recordings into 20 minute-long episodes, mixing in sound effects to recreate the natural ambience of the refugee camps.

A group of refugee musicians composed and recorded the special theme music for the drama, which is used to signal the start and end of each episode, and as short interludes between scenes.

Currently, **Tuyage Twongere** is aired weekly by Radio Kwizera, and by four radio stations in Burundi - the state broadcaster RTNB, and three private FM stations: RPA, Culture and Renaissance.

The Survey: Justification and Methodology

The audience survey was designed to garner an impression of the early reactions of listeners to the drama series after it had been on air for six months. Using the survey, IRIN aimed in broad terms to learn:

- how many people are tuning into the programme;
- who these listeners are;
- what impact the drama is having on the audience;
- what are the preferred listening times for the programme;
- why people may not be listening to the drama;
- whether IRIN Radio is meeting its initial goals;
- whether there is a continued need for the programme.

The project team designed a questionnaire in Kirundi, the national language spoken by all Burundians, containing 10 main questions with subsidiary questions, mostly with multiple-choice answers. Enumerators (correspondents from partner stations) were selected in each of the refugee camps in western Tanzania, and in five provinces of Burundi. They were requested to interview around 100 people in their locality, attempting to

include a balance between women and men, young and old, rural and urban, displaced and settled, and various social groups. Enumerators were given detailed instructions on how to conduct the survey. Questionnaires were filled and returned to IRIN in Nairobi for data basing and analysis.

In total, enumerators completed and returned 987 questionnaires. This included 684 people interviewed in 10 of the 16 provinces of Burundi, and 303 refugees interviewed in five camps in western Tanzania.

(Separately, though around the same period, groups of confirmed listeners to the drama were identified and questioned more deeply during the course of focus group sessions. They gave detailed replies to questions about the storyline, the thematic content, the presentation and the broadcast schedule of the series. Their comments are written up in a separate report).

Survey findings

In general, the results of the survey show clearly that listeners in the Tanzanian refugee camps make up the biggest audience of **Tuyage Twongere**, with 64% of the 303 refugees interviewed declaring themselves as regular listeners to the drama.

This is a predictably positive result, as the drama is written about and for the refugees, and the project has a high visibility through partnerships with local refugee actors, and the popular community-based station Radio Kwizera.

Meanwhile in Burundi, 40% of the 684 people interviewed listen to the drama. The survey shows that the drama series is gaining popularity with the audience in Burundi, most notably in the provinces bordering Tanzania (Ruyigi, Rutana, Makamba) where many refugees are returning. Taking all 987 respondents in Burundi and the refugee camps into account, 48 % (470) know **Tuyage Twongere** and have heard it once or more times.

After six months on air, this is judged to be a very creditable performance. IRIN sees that the project's biggest immediate challenge is to create a larger following of the drama among a wider audience in Burundi. This will involve negotiating prime broadcast slots with the most popular radio partners, and pursuing a more vigorous publicity campaign already initiated with the distribution at the end of 2004 of posters advertising the drama. In some areas, such as Makamba, radio reception is particularly problematic due to the mountainous terrain, and goes some way to explain low awareness of the drama there.

The survey reveals, importantly, that most of those who follow the programme know it well, and rate it highly for its informative, educational and entertaining content. Listeners in Burundi stated that the programme has given a 'human face' to the refugees: they can now identify with them as compatriots who share common problems. Some listeners said the drama has helped them prepare for the return of the refugees, by familiarising them with the refugees and therefore easing anxieties.

Among refugee listeners in Tanzania, almost all agree that the drama depicts accurately the realities in the camps. Most said they had learned a lot from the programme about the peace process, developments on the other side of the border, and good family and neighbourly relations.

A high proportion of Burundians on both sides of the border agrees that the radio drama has contributed much to reconciling the two divided communities, and expressed the wish for the programme to continue on a more regular (twice weekly with repeats) basis.

1. Who was surveyed?

A total of 987 persons were questioned (100%), of whom 303 in the refugee camps in western Tanzania (31%), and 684 in various provinces of Burundi (69%)

By gender:

- 44% female
- 56% male

By age group:

- 87% 19-49
- 7% over 50
- 6% under 18

By occupation:

- 27% farm workers
- 12% students
- 10% small traders
- 9% teachers
- 5% unemployed
- 37% other (includes civil servants, security officers, camp officials, housewives, street kids, prostitutes, pastors, NGO workers, etc)

2. How important is radio?

- 91% said they listen to the radio
- 9% said they do not listen to the radio

3. How many people own a radio?

- 60% of respondents own a radio
- 31% of respondents said they do not own a radio
- 9% did not specify

4. Where do others listen to the radio?

31% of the 894 respondents who listen to the radio do so in places other than their homes. The 31% breaks down as follows:

- 19% at their neighbours
- 6% at their lodgings
- 2% at their local pub or bar
- 2% at work
- 1% at school
- 1% at the market
- 2% did not specify

5. How many listen to Tuyage Twongere and how often?

Of the total 987 respondents, 470 (48%) said they have heard the drama series. Of these:

- 10% have heard it once
- 47% have heard it more than once
- 36% listen to it regularly
- 6% listen always
- 1% did not specify

6. Why do the others not listen to the drama?

- 51% did not know of the drama
- 20% do not have time to listen to radio
- 19% do not own a radio
- 1% do not like dramas
- 9% did not specify the reason

7. Where are the Tuyage Twongere's listeners located?

Out of the 470 respondents who listen to the drama:

- 41% are in the refugee camps in Tanzania
- 59% are in Burundi

Among the 275 respondents in Burundi who follow the programme:

- 13% in Bujumbura
- 11% in Ruyigi
- 7% in Gitega
- 6% in Kayanza
- 5% in Bubanza
- 4% in Bururi
- 3% each in Rutana, Makamba, Cibitoke
- 1% in Muramvya
- others did not specify

8. Which station do listeners hear the drama on?

Of the 470 respondents who follow the programme:

- 43% Radio Kwizera (Ngara)
- 24% RPA (private FM in Burundi)
- 9% RTNB (State broadcaster in Burundi)
- 1% Radio Culture (FM in Burundi)
- 0% Renaissance (FM in Burundi) - only one person
- 23% did not specify

9. Are listeners happy with the broadcast schedule?

Three of the stations have given Sunday as the day for broadcast of the programme.
 RTNB: Sundays 9:30 am; RPA: Sundays at 6:30 pm; Radio Kwizera: Sundays at 7:30 pm.

- 67% are happy
- 12% are unhappy
- others did not specify

10. Why do listeners like Tuyage Twongere?

Out of the 470 respondents who know the programme, 97% say they like it.

- 19% say it is educational
- 18% say it is informative
- 15% find it useful
- 9% say it is funny
- 7% say it is entertaining
- others did not specify why

11. What have listeners learned from the drama?

Of the 470 respondents who listen, 86% said they have learned something from the drama.

- 16% say it teaches good family relations and neighbourly cohabitation
- 13% say it teaches life skills
- 13% say it is informative about life in the refugee camps
- 10% say it gives advice on HIV/AIDS
- 4% say it teaches good hygiene
- others did not specify

12. Has the drama changed the image of refugees in the minds of those in Burundi?

Out of the 275 respondents who follow the drama in Burundi:

- 57% say the programme has changed their perception of refugees
- 25% say their view of refugees has not changed

Among the 57% of respondents whose perception of refugees has changed, the majority say:

- The drama has given a human face to the refugees
- The drama has helped them understand the hardships of refugee life
- The drama has helped them view the refugees positively
- The drama has made them feel closer to the refugees

13. Do refugees in the camps see themselves in the drama?

- 76% of refugees interviewed stated that the drama is true to their reality
- 19% said it is not an accurate depiction
- 5% did not specify

Conclusions

The results of this audience survey indicate strongly that the project is making positive progress towards meeting its goals. In general, IRIN sees the results of the survey, and the comments from listeners, as a clear endorsement of the project and a validation of plans to continue the series.

The programme, *Tuyage Twongere*, has a strong following among the refugees in the camps in western Tanzania, and a growing audience inside Burundi.

Most refugees appear to find the series informative and useful, as well as entertaining. They mention specifically that the series is informative on issues such as family relations, HIV/AIDS, and developments at home in Burundi. The refugees view the series as an authentic depiction of life in the camps, and one that accurately voices many of their real concerns.

A sizeable proportion of listeners in Burundi say their image of the refugees has changed positively as a result of the series, and they now realise they share much in common with their compatriots across the border.

IRIN concludes, therefore, that the series is making a strong contribution towards: giving a forum for the refugees' voices to be heard, improving flows of credible information, encouraging cross-border dialogue, and promoting a spirit of reconciliation among Burundians.

As the project advances to the next phase, IRIN Radio will focus on improving broadcast schedules with partner radios, on promoting the series to more would-be listeners inside Burundi, and on developing the storyline to include themes that are most useful and relevant to the audience.

ANNEX 1: The Questionnaire

ITOHOZA KU GIKINO TUYAGE TWONGERE
MINI SURVEY ON THE RADIO DRAMA SERIES, TUYAGE TWONGERE

AHO UMUNTU YIDONDORA
DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL

Akazi:
Occupation

Imyaka:
Age

Igitsina:
Gender

Inkumi/Umusore/Urubatse:
Marital status

Komine:
Address/commune

Utaha muri komine yawe y'amavuka canke uri umudeplase?
Have you returned to your commune or are you still on the move?

1	Sinigeze mva mur'iyi komine no mu magume I never left this commune, even during the conflict
2	Natse indaro kuva intambara itera I have moved in with relatives, friends, etc. since war
3	Mba muri site y'abadeplase I am in a displaced site
4	Narahungutse vuba (mvuye mw'ikambi y'impunzi canke muri site) I am a returnee (either from the refugee camps or IDP sites)
5	Nimutse kubera ishule I moved here for educational purposes
6	Nimutse ngaha kubera akazi I moved here for professional reasons

ITOHOZA QUESTIONNAIRE

Mettez une croix ou encerclez la reponse donnee par la personne interogee. Pour les questions aux choix multiples, suivez les instructions donnees sur le questionnaire.

Circle or check the correct answer given by the respondent. For multiple choice responses, please follow the instructions given in the questionnaire.

- 1) Urumviriza iradiyo?
Do you listen to the radio?

1	Ego Yes
2	Oya No

Yemeye, uca uja ku kibazo ca kabiri.
If the answer is yes, go to question number 2.

Iyo umuntu ahakanye, uca umubaza igituma. Acagura mur'izo nyishu, inyishu IMWE itomoye.
If no, go to box below. Choose ONE answer out of the five.

1	Ntagira iradiyo I don't own a radio
2	Ntagira umwanya I don't have time
3	Sinkunda kwumviriza iradiyo I don't like listening to radio
4	Ntaho mfise numviriza iradiyo I don't have access to a radio
5	Ntaco bimwiye I don't have any interest

- 2) Wumviriza iradiyo yande?
Whose radio do you listen to? Choose ONE answer.

1	Numviriza iradiyo yanje I own a radio
2	Numviriza mu babanyi I listen at neighbours
3	Numviriza aho natse indaro I listen in my lodgings
4	Numviriza mu kabare I listen at my favourite pub/bar
5	Numviriza kw'ishule I listen at school
6	Numvirize ku kazi I listen at work
7	Numvirize mw'isoko I listen at the market
8	Numviriza ahandi hatavuzwe haruguru None of the above

- 3) Umaze kwumva igikino Tuyage Twongere?
Have you heard the radio drama Tuyage Twongere?

1	Ego
2	Oya

Ahakanye, uca ukurikirana ikibazo ca kane.
If no, go to question number 4.

Yemeye, uca uja ku kibazo ca 5.
If yes, go to question number 5.

4) Impamvu n'uko: Because:

1	Ntagira iradiyo I don't own a radio
2	Ntagira umwanya I don't have time
3	Ntarinzi ko ikiganiro kiba ho I didn't know the drama exists
4	Ntakunda ibikino I don't like dramas
5	Ntanyakimwe muri ivyo vyavuzwe kare None of the above

5) Umaze gukurikirana ico kiganiro?
How often have you listened to the programme?

1	Nta narimwe Never
2	Rimwe Once
3	Akarenga rimwe More than once
4	Kenshi Regularly
5	Imisi yose Always

Abavuze ko batakizi, muca mugeza aho mukubaza. Abakizi naho muca mubandanya mu babaza.

6) Wacumvirije ku yihe nsamirizi? Ushobora gucagura inyishu zirenga imwe.
Which of the following five stations have you heard it on? You can choose more than one answer.

1	RTNB (Iradiyo y'igihugu)
2	Radio Kwizera
3	RPA (Ijwi ry'abanyagihugu)
4	Radio Culture (Imico Kama)
5	Renaissance

Isamirizi mwuviriza kurusha izindi n'iyihe?
Which is your preferred station?

7) Wiyumvira iki kuri ico kiganiro muri rusangi ?
Do you like the programme, Tuyage Twongere ?

1. Ego, ndakunda igikino kubera ko : Yes, I like the drama because it's	
a.	Kiratwenza. funny
b.	Uramenya ibintu bitari bike informative
c.	Kiramara irungu entertaining
d.	Kirahanura useful
e.	Kirungura ubwenge educational

Oya, sinkunda ikiganiro kubera ko
No, I don't like the drama because

8) (For Burundi) Ikiganiro kimaza guhindura ingene ubona umuntu w'impunzi? Gute?
Do you think of the refugees in the same way now?

1.	Ego Yes
2.	Oya No

Bahakanye, baca bishura igituma
 If no, ask the interviewee "how"?

Bemeye, baza igituma
 If yes, ask why?

(For Tanzania) Ubona ico gikino kivuga ibiba vy'ukuri mu ma kampi y'impunzi yo muri Tanzania?
 Is the drama true to your reality?

1.	Ego Yes
2.	Oya No
3.	Si cane Not much
4.	Sindabizi Don't know

9) Hari inyigisho wakuye mwo y'ingira kamaro?
 Have you learned anything from this drama?

1	Ego Yes
2	Oya No

Abavuze ego, bobandanya bakavuga ico bakuye mwo:
 If yes, continue with the interview and ask them "what did you learn"?

Ahakanye, uca ubandanya ku kibazao canyuma.
 If no, go to question number 10.

10) Uranezerezwa n'imisi canke amasaha ico kiganiro gica ku nsamirizi?
 Are you happy with the day and hour at which the programme is broadcast?

1	Ego Yes
2	Oya No

Abemeye, uca ugeza ngaha mukubaza.
 If yes, end the interview.

Avuze ko atanejerejwe n'amasaha n'imisi, uca umubazo ikibazo gikurikira
 For those who chose "No", continue with interview and ask them the following question:

Ni uwuhe musi n-isaha vyokunzezeza?
 Which day and what hour would be the best for you?

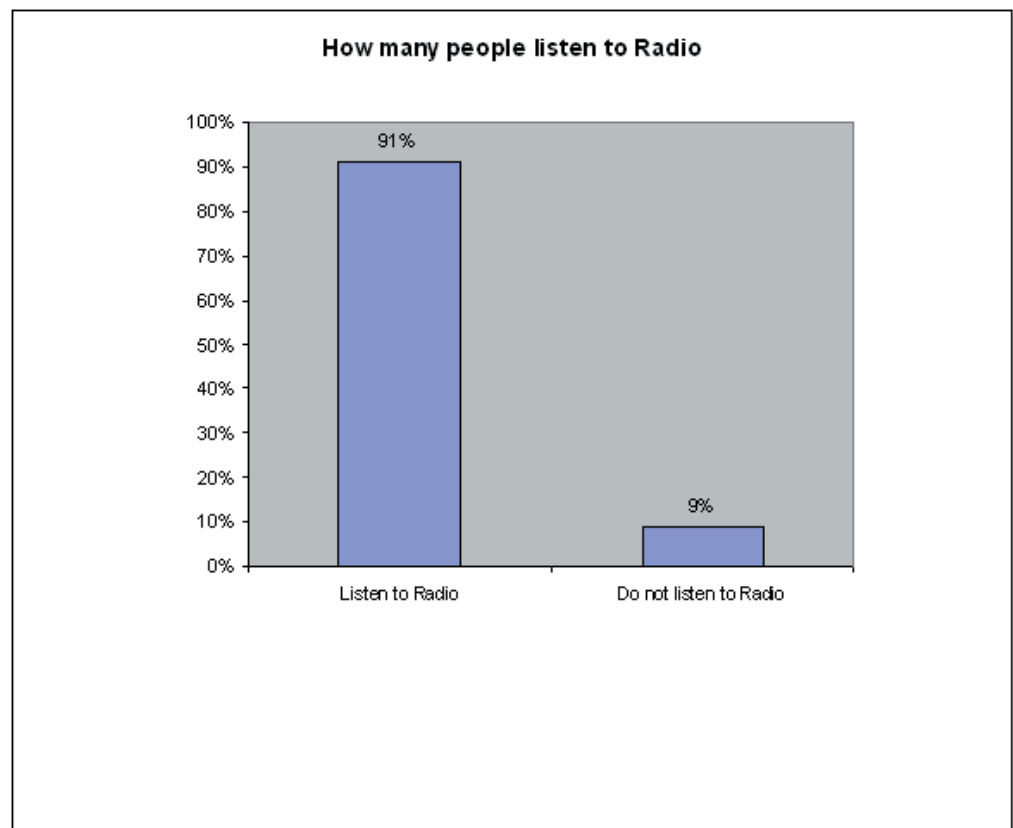
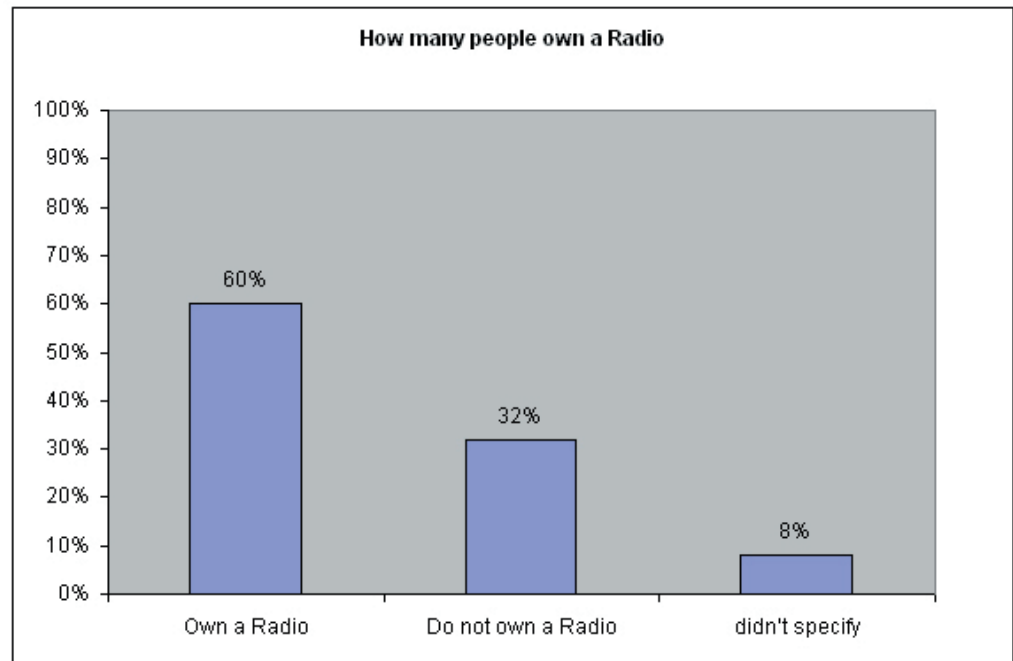
Isaha Time

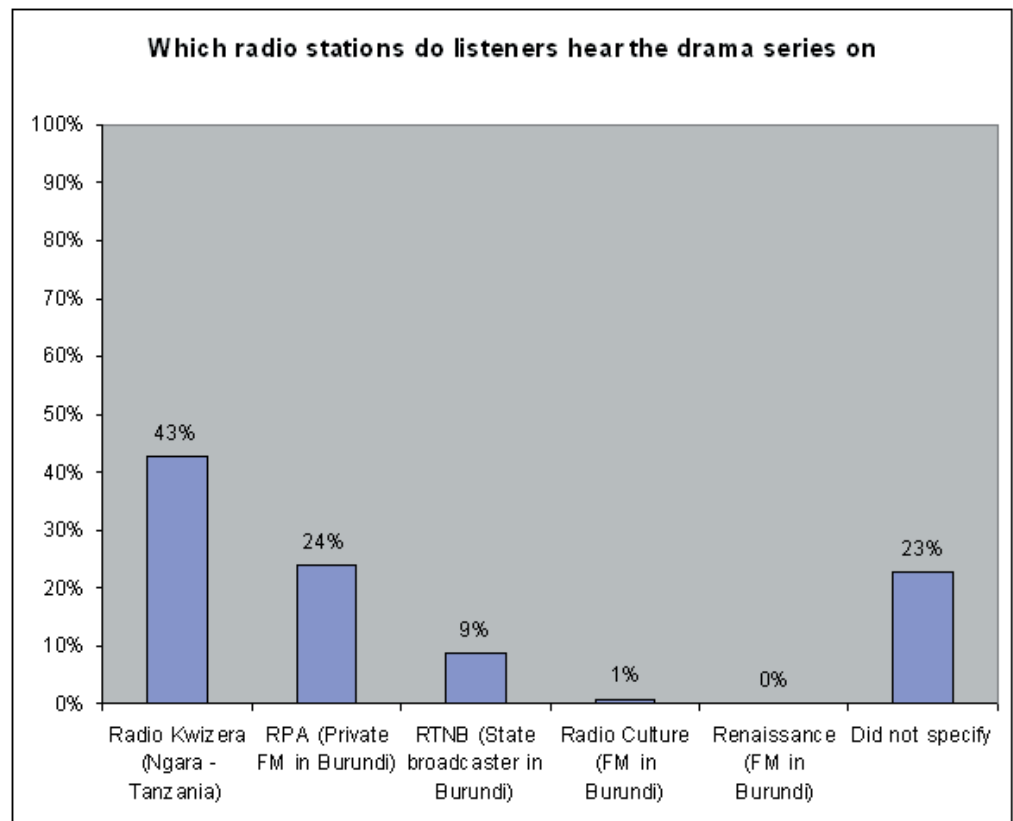
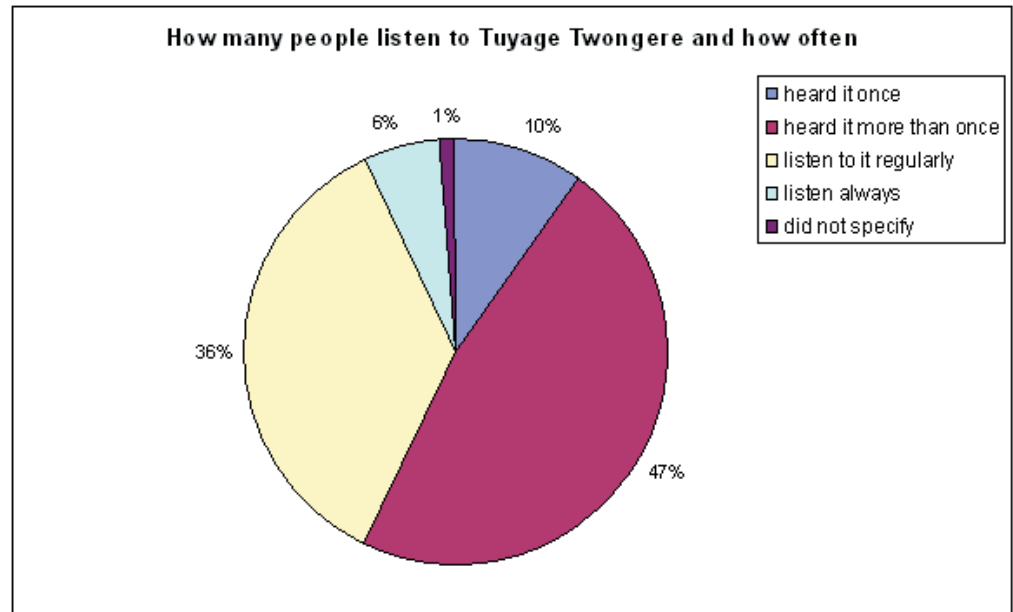
1	Mugitondo Morning
2	Kumurango Afternoon
3	Kumugoroba Evening

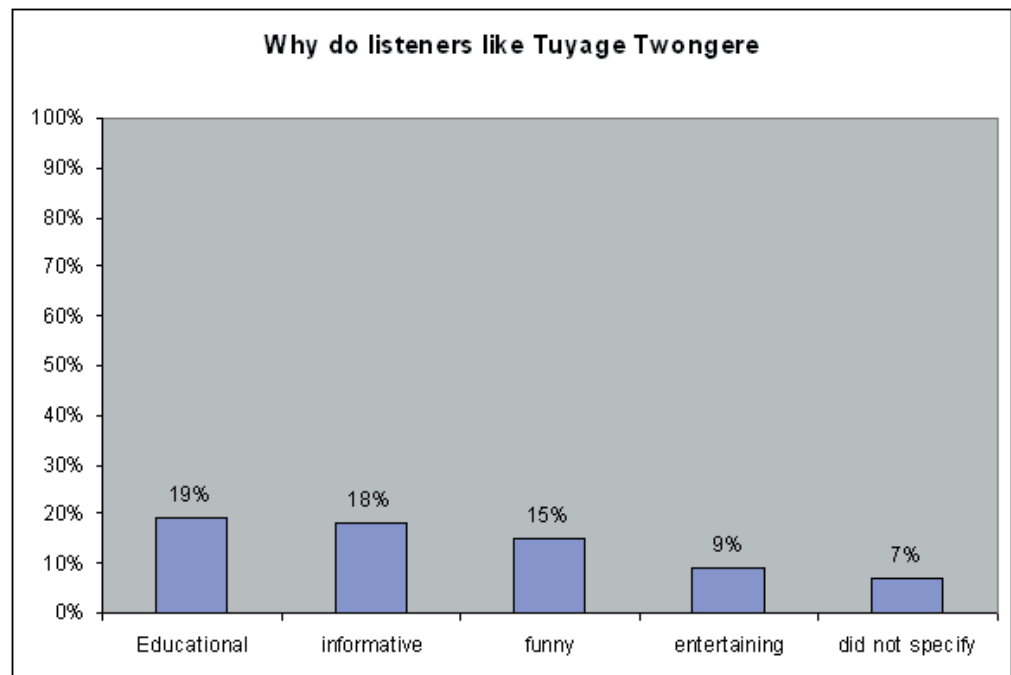
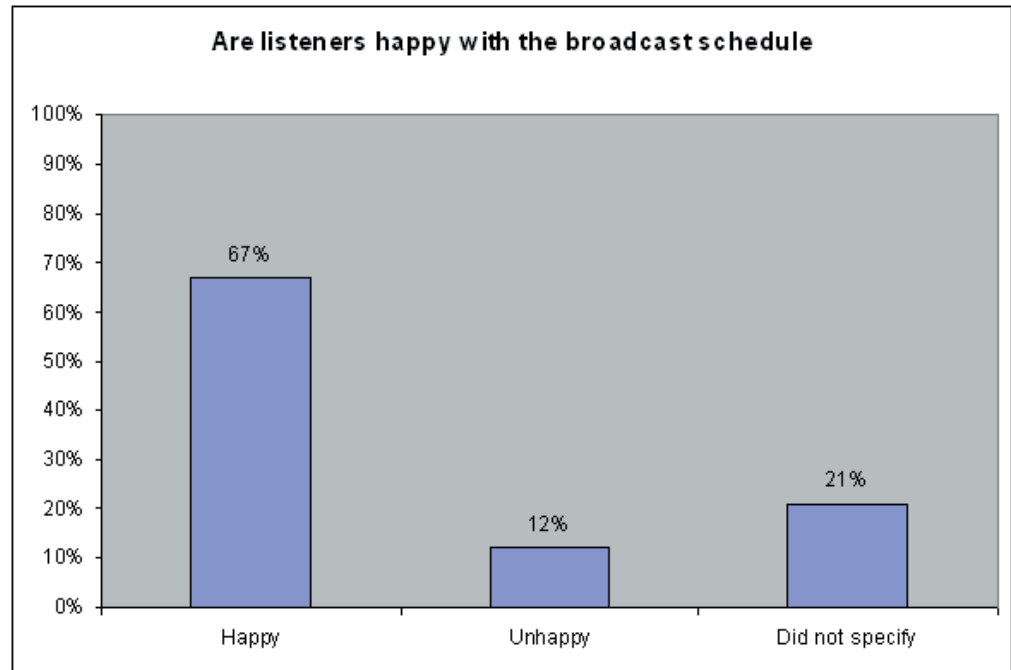
Umusi Day

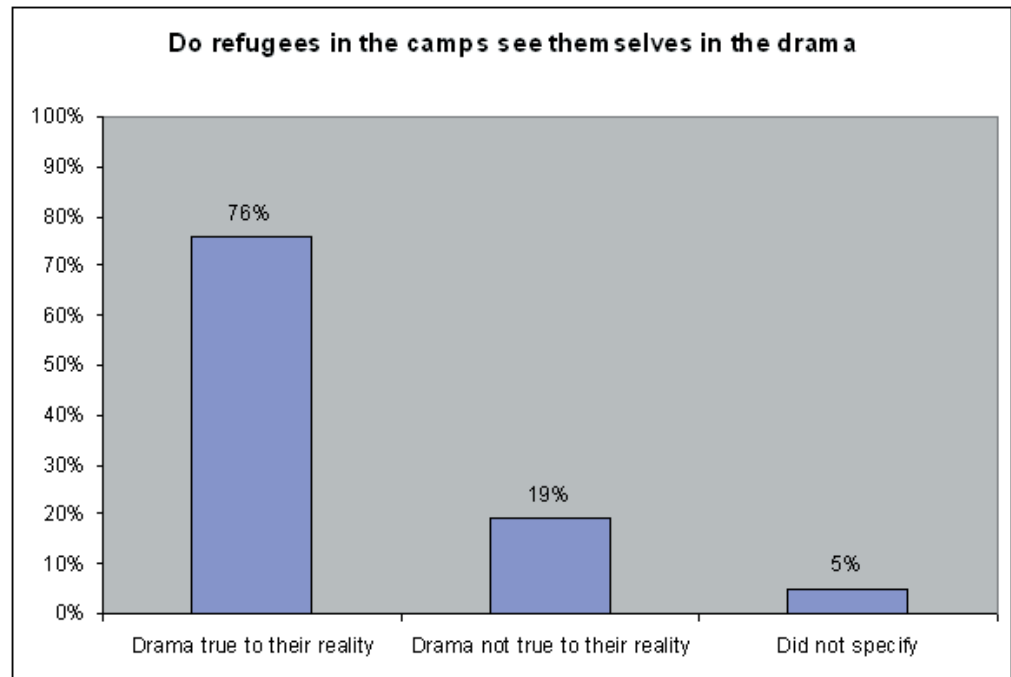
1	Kwa mbere Monday
2	Kwa kabiri Tuesday
3	Kwa gatatu Wednesday
4	Kwa kane Thursday
5	Kwa gatanu Friday
6	Kwa gatandatu Saturday
7	Kwa mungu Sunday

Annex 2: Charts and Graphs









Integrated Regional Information Networks Radio (IRIN Radio) IRIN Radio Burundi Soap Opera Focus Groups Report 2004

Executive Summary

As part of an interim evaluation in late 2004 of its Burundi Radio Drama series, **Tuyage Twongere** (Let's Talk in Kirundi), IRIN Radio conducted an audience survey based on a questionnaire, complemented by several focus group discussions with listeners in Burundi and the refugee camps in western Tanzania.

This report outlines the results of the focus group sessions.

The focus group sessions were intended to elicit from various listener groups detailed comments on the content, format and broadcast schedule of the drama series, and on its impact on the audience. These comments will help IRIN to assess how much progress the project is making with regard to its objectives, and to incorporate any relevant and appropriate recommendations from listeners.

The drama project aims to give refugees a voice on issues of concern to them; to provide them with useful and credible information on developments in Burundi and on issues affecting their lives; to encourage cross-border dialogue between Burundians at home and those in the Tanzanian refugee camps, and to contribute to promoting reconciliation between those divided communities. The project also has a special focus on promoting gender equality, in terms of both the thematic content of the drama, and the involvement of women and girls in developing the storyline.

The focus groups were held with:

- 1 group of women leaders and members of an association campaigning against violence against women, in Lukole A camp, Ngara
- 1 group of women involved in sensitization through theatre campaigns in Lukole A camp, Ngara
- 1 group of women and girls selected at random in the market place in Lukole B camp, Ngara
- 1 group of women "street representatives" in Lukole B camp, Ngara
- Several larger, mixed gender gatherings in Lukole A and B camps
- 2 small, mixed gender groups in Makamba province, south-east Burundi

In general, the views on the drama series expressed by participants were overwhelmingly positive. Highlights of what the participants said they like about **Tuyage Twongere** are:

- It raises the profile of women in the life and struggle for survival in the camps (according to women and girls) through its female characters
- It captures the real life experiences of the refugees, both the good (neighbourliness, sharing, love and friendship) and the bad (insecurity, domestic violence, infidelity, poverty, HIV, drunkenness, and so on), in the language of everyday life.
- The actors are compelling and the style invokes laughter, tears and gravity according to the circumstance
- Serious matters are addressed and bad behaviour is denounced without accusing individuals
- As the series is heard on radios in Burundi, it helps Burundians at home to understand and empathise with the refugees
- It gives useful advice on issues such as health and helps bring about positive behavioural change
- It gives space for the refugees to express their opinions and ideas
- It helps to reconcile refugees and Burundians at home

In terms of criticism or recommendations, participants said:

- The authors of misdeeds should face stiffer punishment in the drama so as to act as a stronger deterrent against anti-social behaviour
- The drama should focus more on themes such as polygamy and the break-up of families; the logistical problems of repatriation; political and economic threats jeopardising safe repatriation; street children and orphans of conflict; harassment of refugees by local authorities, and other issues
- There should be ways of evaluating whether the criticisms raised by the refugees in the drama on issues such as food rations, security, repatriation procedures in the camps, are being heard by the relevant authorities
- Each episode should be longer, even up to 45 minutes

- The series should be broadcast more frequently, twice or even three times a week, with repeats of each episode
- Friday at 2pm [on Radio Kwizera] is an inconvenient time for most people to hear the drama
- Sunday broadcast slots [on Kwizera, RTNB, RPA] are popular and convenient to most listeners
- Men often go out to the bar in the evening and take the radio with them, so a later broadcast at 10 pm when they have returned would be useful for women
- Not everyone has a radio
- Better information on the broadcast schedule for the drama on the different radio stations is needed

What listeners say about Tuyage Twongere

The following is a selection of comments from participants recorded during Focus Group sessions held in the Lukole refugee camps in western Tanzania. (Participants were not asked to give their names).

"This drama teaches good neighbourly relations, it frowns on sexual misconduct, and helps prepare our youth for the future."

"I would like the drama to be aired every day."

"Come and write an episode about me and my wife! We fight over who keeps the [refugee camp] ration card."

"The airtime should be increased to 40 minutes at least."

*"As the theme music for **Tuyage Twongere** says, the truth comes through dialogue, so more people should tune in to this programme."*

"I like the drama so much because it helps us to live in peace with each other now [in the camps], which will be a great asset when we return to Burundi."

"I would like to hear more news from Burundi and more songs to illustrate the themes in the drama."

"The drama helps us know how to protect ourselves from killer diseases such as malaria, cholera and other epidemics."

"There needs to be more of an exchange of opinions between refugees and people in Burundi in the drama."

"I like the drama because it opens my mind to new things, gives advice, and makes me laugh - I like that!"

"I would like the drama to tell the story of why we took the road to exile, so that people back home understand our reasons."

"This drama leans strongly towards women."

"Men do not have a voice in this drama."

"The drama speaks of good cohabitation in families, and also speaks out against men who do not respect their wives, or who mistreat them. If it continues, the drama will help to change this behaviour."

*"**Tuyage Twongere** is a programme I follow religiously and it teaches me a lot about that killer HIV/AIDS."*

"I would like to see more young people playing in the drama, because we are the ones most affected by killers like AIDS."

"I would also like to act in the drama!"

*"I wish to see the actors of **Tuyage Twongere** playing live some parts of the drama right in front of our modest huts here in the camps."*

Next, a selection of comments recorded from Focus Group participants across the border in Burundi:

"I gathered from the series that refugees are willing to let go of the past and want to come home with all their hearts."

"The drama has given the refugees a voice and reminded people like me, who had forgotten all about them, that they still exist."

*"The drama gives a platform for people on both sides to express their ideas."
 "I have learned not to blame a whole ethnic group for what some have done."*

"I understood that what happened to the refugees can happen to me or anyone else."

"I used to think they [refugees] had a good life and now I realise their situation is worse than ours!"

"I have learned from the drama that polygamy is not a good thing...and hypocrisy and being two-faced are not qualities."

"I was once a refugee and I learn from this drama that we [Burundians] have to work on improving our relations and building stronger ties."

"What I have learned from the drama is how to avoid HIV/AIDS, and to live in harmony with people regardless of their ethnicity."

"Now I can see a refugee as a human being."

"The drama gives refugees an insight into what is happening in Burundi and will help them know what they are coming home to when they decide to return."

"The problems of refugees do not differ much from those of the displaced [in Burundi]".

"When I hear people tell their stories, it gives me a bit of hope for my life and strength to go on."

"This drama reconciles Hutu and Tutsi."

Conclusions

The Focus Groups provide enthusiastic and revealing feedback from listeners to **Tuyage Twongere** on both sides of the Burundi-Tanzania border. Many participants, notably in the refugee camps, expressed a remarkable familiarity with the drama and knew all the characters by name.

Overall, the results confirm that the project is making a positive difference within the scope of its objectives.

The important observations to point out are:

- The refugees clearly view **Tuyage Twongere** as an outlet for self-expression and are gratified that their voices, problems and opinions are being heard through the drama
- Burundian women have been accorded a higher profile through the drama, and issues surrounding gender-based violence, gender equality, family relations and responsibility, are being seriously confronted and discussed as a result of the drama
- Listeners on both sides of the border are gaining access to important life-influencing information on repatriation, health, hygiene, family and social relations, and other issues
- Listeners in Burundi are learning about life in the refugee camps and feeling more positive and empathetic towards the refugees
- The drama is acting as a uniquely accessible, informative and entertaining forum for cross-border communication between divided communities of Burundians

RADIO

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