

# THE GREAT LAKES AGENCY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL (GLAPD Int.)

## 2017-2018 REPORT



**“Uniting hearts and minds in Africa’s Great Lakes  
Communities locally, regionally and internationally”**

**September 2018**

## **FORWARD**



Mr Emmanuel Musoni,  
Chairperson  
GLAPD Int. Board of Directors.

It's now six years since GLAPD Int. was officially registered as a non-for Profit. We have moved miles from being a small organisation to a stronger, known and vibrant organisation, thanks to the tireless efforts of devoted teams of women and men who serve as Board members and other volunteers. In the start, we were operating in NSW only, and now we have extended our service coverage to Victoria, and Queensland. We have already established Board committees and there are growing well into action.

This last financial year we managed to achieve great heights of recognition in the area of settlement and resettlement services, community engagement and social cohesion. We have tremendously continued our well-established relationships with our communities especially supporting their executive committees and supporting local community events. As a result, we have managed to open up and included the Kenyans in our organization.

In 2016, GLAPD Int. championed a new program of regional resettlement that has attracted almost 300 families from our communities who want to resettle in regional and rural towns. The uniqueness about being a champion in this is a bottom up approach in which we managed to investigate the urge of our community members to live and work in the country side. Another point is that, we took a progressive approach of engaging rural and regional communities to welcome families from our communities (community based and community driven).

As a result, we have engaged in relationships with a large number of organizations who are interested in regional resettlement, including peak Bodies like, Regional Australian Institute, Scanlon Foundations, Multicultural NSW, MDA and many others. On the grassroots level of regional resettlement, we have engaged with Rotary clubs in NSW and we are working perfectly well with them and they assist in regional resettlement.

Today, we count four regional resettlement initiatives that we have started since the beginning of last financial year. These include: Mingoola Resettlement Initiative, Great South Coast Economic Migration Project-Victoria, Cooma-NSW and Lismore that is just at the beginning.

Consequently, our recognition has grown by and large and thus, this year we managed to engage with members of other communities who approached us for an assistance to relocate to regional areas. We worked with the Indian community members from Sydney and Melbourne who wanted to relocate to regional areas for work. We have so far assisted them settle in NSW regional towns, a process we will keep improving.

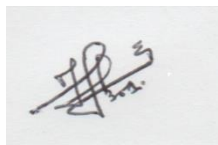
In this program and other settlement service programs, we have intensified our relations with different Universities, such as UNSW, WSU, University of Wollongong and University of Melbourne to produce research work on different activities that we perform. Most of this work is on regional resettlement and settlement services in our communities. We strongly believe that, the best way to address community issues sustainably will always involve evidence-based solutions that are long term.

Finally, we are grateful to our partners such as DSS, Victoria Government, SSI who are our primary supporters in settlement programs, Scanlon Foundation, Regional Australia Institute, Core Multicultural communities, Northern Settlement Services, University of Sydney, University of NSW, University of Western Sydney, University of Wollongong and University of Melbourne, and all other partners in social and community-based services, Mingoola Progress Association, Habitat for Humanity NSW, iGen Foundation, Leadership Great South Coast and others.

We are endeavouring to achieve more in this financial year especially in employment, regional and rural resettlement, settlement services to new arrivals in Australia and research.

Dear valued members, friends and partners of GLAPD Int., we have only managed to achieve this much because of your invaluable support. We will need more of your support to accomplish the task ahead which will open more doors of opportunities for our communities in different states of Australia where we are established, and also increase our reach to other States.

*“Unity is our strength and our neighbour is our opportunity”*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emmanuel Musoni', is written on a light-colored background.

Mr Emmanuel Musoni

Chair GLAPD Int. Board of Directors

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## I. INTRODUCTION


The Great Lakes Agency for Peace and Development International (GLAPD Int.) works in partnership with government agencies and other organisations to run programs and projects that make positive changes in the lives of communities from the Great Lakes region of Africa, namely Rwanda, Burundi, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and most recently Kenya. The programs/projects include Settlement Services Program, Rural and Regional resettlement program, Career development project and Research projects.







Our initiatives aim at engaging with communities in Australia to promote greater understanding of and support for our refugee and migrant communities, promote harmony and neighbourliness through social events, promote social inclusion and social cohesion through the Great Lakes Harmony day and Sports Gala, provide rural and regional resettlement, provide opportunities for learning about each other's cultures, and provide settlement assistance to support new refugees and migrants from the Great Lakes region of Africa.

## II. ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES.


### 1. Board of Directors

GLAPD Int. board of Directors is composed of 9 members from the 4 countries constituting the Great Lakes region of Africa. The board is made of nine positions and all the directors work in collaboration in order to plan, implement and evaluate all the activities, projects and programs.

Photo	Name	Position	Country of Origin
 A portrait of Emmanuel Musoni, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored patterned shirt. He is smiling and standing in front of a backdrop with logos, including 'Anglicare' and 'MIGRATION SERVICES'.	Emmanuel Musoni	Chairperson	Rwanda

	Jeff Budodi	Executive Secretary	Burundi
	Dr Nadine Shema	Public Relations	Rwanda
	Emma Martine Ndenzako	Finance	Burundi
	William Bagume	Communication and IT	Uganda
	Claude Muco	Youth affairs	D R Congo
	Rosalia Nahimana	Social and cultural affairs	Burundi



	<p>Dr Jean Pierre Abega</p>	<p>Programs and research</p>	<p>Rwanda</p>
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## 2. Board Meetings

The board meets every quarter (3months) and we would say that GLAPD Int., performed quite well in 2017-2018 implementing creative and innovative projects despite limited resources. These include the rural and regional settlement program and different research projects. Just to mention a few.

From July 2018 to June 2017, GLAPD Int. had four (4) board meetings where board members had to sit, share updates, evaluate the different activities and projects, plan and strategise for the future.

## 3. GLAPD Int. expansion

In the financial year 2017-2018, we expanded our services to the Kenyan community, Kenya being the fifth country to be part of our organisation and Kenya was officially welcomed during our Harmony day on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. We look forward to collaboratively working with the Kenyan community in Australia and our services are open to all their members.

## 4. Grant opportunities

This year, GLADP Int. received the ongoing grant (2015-2018) for the settlement Services program from the Department of Social Services through Settlement Services International (SSI), the lead partner for the NSW Settlement Partnership (NSP) which GLAPD Int. is part of. The five year Settlement Grant Program was supposed to end in July 2018 but due to the delay to open the next round the grant is still going on until probably December 2018. For the next round, GLAPD Int. partnered with Life without Barriers (LWB) and we look forward to working with LWB for the next 3 to 5 years in the settlement program.

## 5. Direct support services to communities

### Ugandan community

- Hire of the dancing hall for the Ugandan cultural dance group whenever they have to practice.
- Supporting them in hiring halls for events

### Burundian community

- Using GLAPD Int. office for meetings
- Hiring community hall whenever they have meetings and events.
- Financial support to organise events
- Financial support to assist in the funerals of a Burundian community member.
- Assisting in community dispute and resolution
- Assisting executive committees and individuals in event planning.

### Rwanda community

- Financial support to organise events
- Cultural dancing support

## 6. African Australian Awards NSW

The African-Australian Awards is an annual event which is organised to acknowledge African-Australian individuals and organisations which excellently performed in their fields and achieved tremendous results benefiting the African community in particular as well as the wider Australian community. GLAPD Int. was one of the CAA 2017 WINNERS for 2017 Award – Community Service Excellence.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017, GLAPD Int. received its 4<sup>th</sup> award. Since 2014, GLAPD Int. has consecutively received 4 awards.





Mrs Rosalia Nahimana (GLAPD Int. board member) receiving the Award.

## 7. Conferences, meetings and talks

### Great South Coast Economic Migration Pilot Leadership Team Meeting 18 July 2017

The towns identified are Coleraine, Penshurst and Balmoral.

Next step: Houses with pieces of land or even farmers offering land to incoming families for farming activities.

Essentially: Working group organise a package of: Houses, Jobs and land# Families will visit and be shown the package components.

Way forward: Families will decide who is relocating to Country side# Complete a data base of the families deciding to relocate to Hamilton and the towns.

Key: Let's do the first families and see how we go to improve the next steps.

These were the action points:

**ACTION 1:** By 25 July: Emmanuel to find Victorian GLAPD representative to commit time for 6-7 months. Purpose is to be local liaison for the project, attend fortnightly teleconferences with leadership team and begin matching families and jobs (in a few months' time).

**ACTION 2:** Carly to begin developing community profile of each town. Brief of each town including a map and details such as population, schools, health care facilities, proximity and accessibility to Hamilton etc.

**ACTION 3:** Carly to input economic projections for RDV application and send final version to Amanda. EOI to be submitted to RDV by this Friday 21 July.

**ACTION 4:** Need to start collating information on families ASAP. Lynda to send through spreadsheet of categories for families to input information (previously created with Emmanuel). Emmanuel to input 10 potential families into this list. These can be matched with possible employment (currently being sourced by the working group) to begin the process.

**Presentations in Victoria Hamilton, Port faire, Coleraine and Balmoral**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Venues: Southern Grampian Shire Council**

On 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 18, in Melbourne, Mr Musoni met with a group of Congolese who want to relocate to the Country. The group involved 12 men and women who have expressed the interest to move to the Country. That same group travelled to Hamilton sometime back searching for a place to relocate to, but they were referred to Musoni for further discussions.

When Musoni met them, they asked questions on how the selection of those to be considered for relocation to the country is done and Musoni had time to explain to them how the whole project started and how it works.

During the discussions, their questions were centred on how they can put resources together and buy a land of their own which they can use for their farming activities. They prefer to own their land rather than borrowing piece of land from farmers.

On the same day, Musoni proceeded to Coleraine town which is 3.5 hrs drive from Melbourne, to deliver a presentation to local population on the profiles and cross cultural differences between our communities and their people. At 4.30pm, Musoni started his presentation which was followed by Q &A time. And thereafter a BBQ during which people had informal discussions and Musoni was able to get one gentleman who offered land to the families to have a garden in case they wanted to.

On the same evening Musoni proceeded to Balmoral, another town which is about an hour from Hamilton. The same presentation happened, and was followed by questions and answers. But in the middle of the questions, one gentleman mentioned that his community is not happy to welcome families in that town of Balmoral according to the information he received from his Group. He even mentioned that the group may be a white supremacist group that does not support to welcome African families in the Town.

However, he was met with strong arguments from the rest of the attending members who said that it was their community too and that the gentleman was lying since he didn't mention who the group was or what the group is claiming.

All the partners in the project of Great South Coast concluded that, they will wait to bring families to Balmoral until it is all clear and also committed to have comprehensive discussions with Balmoral community and specifically approach that mentioned group if it exists to explain to them the families that are coming.

On day two on the 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 18, we started with presentations in Port-faire for the Communities of Peshurst and the presentations were also attended by the Mayor of Moyne Shire and

another counsellor from the same council. After this presentation, there was a meeting with partners (Great South Coast Leadership Group and iGen Foundation) in the project to look at the relocation of the families.

In the afternoon, the team proceeded to Hamilton where Mr Musoni was supposed to have discussions with Real estate agencies. The discussions were started by the welcome of the Mayor of Southern Grampians Mrs Marie-Anne Brown. The purpose of these discussions were to make them (Real estate agents) part of the relocation process, such that they can facilitate the availability of rented houses to the families once they decide to move to the area. It should be reminded that, it had been difficult for families to get rented houses in Hamilton.

Real estate mentioned that, they wished to be involved a bit earlier to get involved before time. They welcomed the project and pledged to mediate between the families and house owners who are often worried about giving their house to families with 8 or 10 kids.

The same afternoon, the team had a presentation to the Hamilton local community on the background and cross-cultural issues between communities, which was again followed by Q&As.

In the evening of the same day, a BBQ to receive the new African Families from Melbourne who have relocated to Hamilton was held. It was wonderful and families are happy to be part of the new community.

Finally, it should be reminded that, in all of these presentations Mr Musoni was with all the partners in the project of Great South Coast and these were: The Mayor of Southern Grampian shire (Marie Anne), Amanda who is the Executive officer of Great South Cost Leadership group, Carly who is also from the same organisation and Lynda Ford from iGen foundation.

On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 18, Mr Musoni met with Anthea, the CEO Scanlon Foundation in Melbourne and discussed about the rural resettlement program which she was excited about. She appreciated GLAPD Int. efforts. Musoni further discussed with her the possibility of funding the project and she mentioned that she was going to have a discussion with her Colleagues and let Musoni know if there is a possibility of funding support.

The same afternoon, Musoni managed to accompany Mr Leonard Nyandwi (GLAPD Int. chair in Victoria) to buy a laptop which they will be using for GLAPD Int. duties. The total cost including Antivirus, Ms Office and USB is: \$654.98. We used the money that was on their account.

**Title:** Regional settlement forum

**Place:** Albury NSW

**Date:** November 2017

Broadly speaking, the objectives of the conference were:

- To showcase the contributions people from refugee backgrounds have made to industry, commerce, agriculture and the community in regional areas

- To share knowledge of what's needed to attract and support the settlement and employment of refugees in regional NSW
- To explain how regional employers can tap into the skills, innovation and entrepreneurship of people from refugee backgrounds who are already living in Australia
- To explore opportunities for new and innovative industries related to meeting demand from Australia's increasingly diverse community
- To scope opportunities for targeted refugee settlement in regional NSW
- To secure tangible commitments from participants by encouraging them to articulate clear takeaway actions appropriate to their organisation.

During the conference, Mr Emmanuel Musoni shared a floor with Julia Harpham and presented on Mingoola case scenario in which we had a Q & A session. The questions were conducted by Margret Piper who was guiding the discussions around best practices in the resettlement of Mingoola.



L-R: Margret Piper, Olive Dan, Carly Jordan, Emmanuel Musoni and Julis Harpham.

**Title:** Regional Migration Roundtable Policy discussion

**Place:** Canberra

**Date:** November 2017

Following a conversation that Mr Musoni had with Jack Achor, CEO Regional Australia Institute on how a policy on Regional resettlement could be developed, Mr Achor was able to organise a Roundtable on policy discussions. Different individuals who initiated resettlement projects around the country were invited to participate in discussions of how a policy would look like.

Participants involved among others CEO of shire councils that have supported such resettlement initiatives, settlement workers in Government lead projects in Mt Gambia and

others and of course, individuals who have initiated projects like Mingoola or Dalwallinu in Western Australia.

We all had a one-day lock in to discuss on policy directions by raising all the challenging issues that may need to be answered by the policy. We agreed that we were going to launch the policy once it finalised. And the policy was launched in May 2018.



Immigration Roundtable discussion on regional Resettlement Policy in Canberra.  
Musoni, Julia Harpham and other

**Title:** Launch of the policy paper on regional migration

**Place:** Australian Parliament House (Rural Press Club)

**Date:** May 2018

As recommended by the roundtable, Regional Australia Institute organised a policy launch at Parliament House Press Club. In this launch, Mr Musoni was invited to present the case scenario of Mingoola and how the settlement saved the school and the community. It was attended by a good number of the Roundtable policy discussion members, a lot of journalists and politicians. The details of the Launch and attendants are here below:

**MORE MIGRANTS FOR SMALL TOWNS**  
Community-led migration projects growing the rural workforce and revitalising rural towns

**A forum by the Regional Australia Institute**  
Tuesday 22 May 2018 | 8.45am–10.00am  
Representatives Alcove, Parliament House Canberra

**GUEST SPEAKERS**  
The Hon. Michael McCormack Deputy Prime Minister  
The Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Australia  
Jack Archer CEO Regional Australia Institute  
Emmanuel Musoni CEO GLAPDInt  
Tom Smith Kia-Ora Piggery, Pyramid Hill, VIC

Seats are limited.  
Please RSVP to Julie Anderson by Friday 11 May 2018  
e: [Julie.Anderson@regionalaustralia.org.au](mailto:Julie.Anderson@regionalaustralia.org.au)  
t: 02 6260 3733



In partnership with the National Rural Press Club and supported by the Scanlon Foundation

**Title:** Regions of Welcome

**Place:** Toowoomba

**Date:** August 2018

Regionals of welcome was a regional conference organised by MDA and Toowoomba Regional as the main organisers. The presentations and discussions were about regional initiative and how successful stories can be replicated elsewhere. During the event some of the Queensland regional councils were invited to share the experiences of how their councils are struggling with workers and population decline. Some of them expressed sad situations in which they are seriously looking for workers and migrants to settle in their communities. In this conference, Mr Musoni had two presentations on two consecutive days. On day one, Musoni have a plenary session panel with four others sharing challenging experiences in regional resettlement. On day two, Musoni presented on the resettlement models of Mingoola and Great South Coast-Victoria projects.

## **8. Advocacy.**

These were two key advocacy works:

1. Kirundi program on SBS Radio.

After several consultations, meetings and discussions with the community and SBS radio executives, the Kirundi program finally got introduced in November 2017 and from May 2018, the program officially started broadcasting. The producer is called Mireille Kayeye. Since then, she has produced number programs discussing a variety of topics which help the communities to be more informed and more confident in their settlement process as well as other areas.

2. The Congolese refugee crisis in Rwanda.

On the request of Congolese community in Australia, GLAPD Int. organised and facilitated conversations between the Congolese community in Australia and the Refugee council of Australia to advocate for the Congolese refugees in Rwanda who were demonstrating against shortage of food rations and resettlement issues.

### III. Projects and programs

#### 1. Settlement services program (SSP)

GLAPD Int. is one of the NSW Settlement Partnership organisations under the lead of Settlement Services International (SSI) as well as a beneficiary of the Settlement Services Program (SSP) Grant provided by the Department of Social Services. GLAPD Int. was very fortunate to secure a 3 year grant to assist the organisation in its projects, programs as well as daily activities of the organisation. GLAPD Int. has a part-time case worker Claudette Naboya, working 2 days a week and providing case work, referrals, information sessions and various workshops as per the needs of the clients. SSP provides services to new arrivals and refugees in their first five years in Australia. The case worker supports and provides information relating to education, housing, employment/ training, Centrelink, health as well as community services to individuals, families and young people.



Meet Claudette Naboya  
Settlement Services Program  
Case worker  
Mondays and Thursdays (9AM-4PM)

In 2017-2018 financial year, the SSP grant enabled GLAPD Int. to implement its activities. GLAPD Int. assisted more than 100 people. These are some of the activities implemented by the case worker under the SSP.

#### ➤ **Career Development workshop 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017**

The workshop was facilitated by Mrs Sheila Matete-Owiti, a life/career Coach and Consultant. The workshop was attended by 15 participants. Sheila broke the ice by asking participants to talk about what they would like to do in their career, what is their passion and what are their dream jobs.

Sheila gave tips for an effective job search and a successful job application:

- How to effectively search for a job: she recommended several job search websites in the different sectors,
- How to write, review and update impressive CVs.
- How to effectively address the selection criteria by using the STAR (Situation, Task, action, Result) approach.
- How to prepare and practice for interviews,
- Negotiate salary and promotion.



- How to set up goals and plans to make dreams happen.

The workshop was very instructive and very useful for participants as they showed interest and actively participated throughout the session.

➤ **Parenting in New culture workshop 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018**

It was facilitated by Chelsea Muscat, Mental Health Consultant from the transcultural Mental Health Centre, a state –wide service within NSW Health. The workshop was attended by 20 participants. The workshop was very important and some parents with grown up children shared their experiences. New parents gain some tips on how they can deal with their children’s behaviour. Participants learnt a lot about how to get children consent, how to help them to make choice and what to do.

The most important thing that participants learnt is that to experience some challenges of children’s behaviour is common and it is treatable. Many misconceptions, perceptions and taboos about not listening to children choice were clarified and participants left the workshop with a new understanding of children behaviour and wellbeing

➤ **Home care visits**

The caseworker with volunteers provided 4 home care visit services. Clients received assistance to understand basic use of utensils in the house.

➤ **Information and referrals**

- One Hundred of clients received information and referrals.
- Referrals to the Health Assessment for Refugee Kids (HARK clinic) at Westmead Children’s hospital were made for children to do health check-ups.

## 2. Rural and regional Settlement program

### 2.1. Breakdown of settled numbers

No	Settlement area	Number
01	Mingoola	30
02	South Grampians	26
03	Cooma	04
04	Lismore	07
	Total	67 People

## **2.2. Mingoola**

In September 2017, the families in Mingoola started growing maize and beans which were harvested around December and sold on Brisbane Niche markets. The families kept, growing more food crops of similar kind. A Kilo of unpeeled beans (still in Pods) cost \$4 and a single fresh corn cost \$1.

Each of the family had about 2 acres of such crops of maize and Beans, and you can imagine how much may have been the harvest.

Since almost a year now, the families applied for their relatives in camps to join them. Altogether, they applied for about 8 families and they have all been acknowledged by the Department of Home Affairs. If they are all accepted to come to Australia, they will make up more around 80 people altogether.

The challenge though is that, there are no enough houses available in Mingoola to house that big number of families. We are looking for different options like housing them in the nearby towns because they have to be supported by the proposing families.

Around the November 2017, Debbie from Northern Settlement Services and me conducted an evaluation of resettlement in Mingoola. We decided to break the process into two parts. The first part was to interview the adults in the families. This took us three consecutive days because the interview questions were comprehensive.

The second part was done in December 2017, and involved interviewing the School Principal of Mingoola Primary School. The teaching staff of Tenterfield high was interviewed as carers of high school Students from the African families in Mingoola. We also did interview the local community members, especially those who played part in the settlement of families. The mayor of Tenterfield Shire Council and the councillor who represented Mingoola were also interviewed.

The third part was also done in January 2018 and involved the interview with students from the High School and from the Primary School. We decided to use picture drawings for kids in primary school and those in High School. The drawings related to how Mingoola looked for them and what they like about Mingoola. It was a fascinating experience.

In June 2018, I was contacted by the Department of Home affairs requesting whether, the Minister can join the families in Mingoola to celebrate the refugee week with them. We started to organize the families and the local community together with Julia. Two activities were organized, the official ceremony at Mingoola Public school and the Lunch sharing at the farmer where the families have gardens. At school different speeches were pronounced and the

children at Mingoola Public school prayed the songs and the Marimbas which was absolutely spectacular. At the gardens, together with the visitors, we enjoyed the nice African foods that had been prepared by the African Families in Mingoola and some prepared by the locals. The ceremonies were attended by The Director of NSW and ACT in charge of Citizenship and visas, Mrs Lesley Dalton who represented the Minister who was attending the Parliament sessions in Canberra. There was also staff from Tenterfield Shire Council, High school and the local community of Mingoola.

ABC TV decided to do a short follow up story of the Australia story in Mingoola. They had learned about the progress of the families in Agricultural production. They wanted to film the families' new crop of Garlic as a way of assisting them market the produce, because it's huge and expecting to harvest more compared to the previous times. The story went on Air on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2018.



- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refugee week in Mingoola in June 2018: Children performing</li> <li>2. Garlic crop in Mingoola: Pastor Isaac and Emmanuel Musoni</li> <li>3. Mingoola Public School children and 2 of the school staff</li> </ol> |
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### **2.3. Great South Coast Economic Migration Project (GSEMP) \_ Hamilton and Glenelg Shire Councils**

Following the Australian Story, of a field of Dreams, in late 2016, The great South Coast region of Victoria became one the recipients of families wanting to relocate from Melbourne Western Suburbs. At the begging of the last financial year, we stated the process of interest families to visit the Great South Coast area of Victoria. We divided the visiting families into two groups

because it was a big number. And in mid-September 2017 the first group of families visited 4 towns of Balmoral, Coleraine, Peshurst and Hamilton. The visit was spectacular and the visiting family were extremely happy. The second group visited the same towns around the month of November and they included people from Adelaide, and other regional cities of Victoria. The Admin process of working with ground partners such as the council started early 2017. The process materialised end of 2017 and the first 3 families relocated to Hamilton January 2018. We now have a total of 4 families who make 26 people altogether.

With our partners who are Leadership Great South Coast and iGen Foundation, we have decided that we will have 10 families in Southern Grampians Shire and 10 families in Glenelg Shire in Victoria. These 20 families are supposed to make a resettlement pilot project which would eventually rollout to other areas in Victoria or elsewhere.

Whilst we were organizing families to settle in Hamilton, together with partners on the ground, started a process of making an application to fund this Pilot. The idea of making a submission can during one of our community consultations in the region of Great South Coast (Composed of 5 council), when we had invited the representative of the regional Development Victoria to be part of our consultations. After the last series of consultations in Portland he gave us a crew on how we can apply for such existing grants.

Thus, this last July, the State Government of Victoria announced the grant of \$162,120 to fund this pilot project. The funds are allocated in different sections of activities as follows:

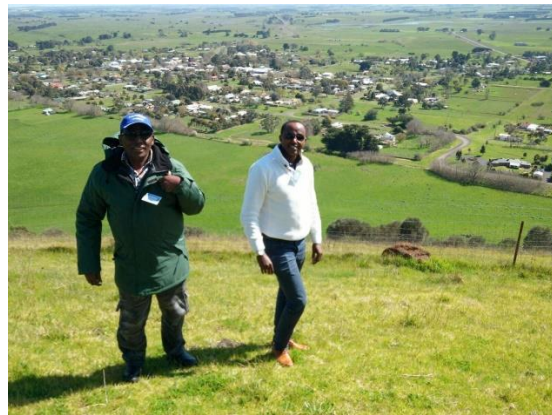
1. Community capacity building
2. Relocation process and resettlement
3. Project coordination and management
4. Development of a database
5. Evaluation of the resettlement project (GSCEMP)

In the meantime, the families got land and started growing Maize and Beans just before this winter from January. As immediate as they arrived, they started to grow the land because we had secured some farming place for them in the community.

We were able to organize cross-cultural community consultations in small towns of Balmoral, Coleraine and port faire. These consultations were supposed to share the cultural perspective of the new coming families. Many of the people asked question, around the origin of families, culturally different, number of children, safety in the community, etc. These conversations are a basis for creating a conducive environment for the families that may decide to live in those towns.

At the moment, we are beginning basic discussions with Glenelg Shire council leadership on things they will have to organize before we start to bring families from Melbourne for a weekend visit. We have had a chance of visiting and organizing presentations on regional resettlement with one of the community towns in Glenelg shire that wants to welcome families to prepare the ground. We will soon be holding conversations with the council authorities, on them to organize, Jobs, houses and farms for growing crops.

After agreeing we will soon proceed with conversations to encourage families in Adelaide and Melbourne to come for a weekend visit. We will take one of the man or women from Mingoola to give them testimony of how life is after 2years in Mingoola. Because they have requested to learn from the experience of Mingoola.



1. Families visiting Hamilton (Southern Grampians) in Sept 2017
2. The landscape of Penshurst town in Southern Grampians : Emmanuel Musoni and a community member

#### **2.4. Cooma - Monaro Regional council**

As most of you are aware, we started to engage with the community in Cooma, since the beginning of 2017. We started by visiting the area with families from Goulbourn, but they didn't seem to be interested. The team from Cooma even visited us at GLAPD office as a way of showing the interest, but we were not having any people getting interested. I finally got one African family that was getting interested. But because they had an issue of a high school student who is sitting for year 12 this year, they preferred to wait for next year.

In the meantime, I was connected to some 25 Indian families from the state of Kerara who were interested in moving to the country. Invited them in our office and they expressed great interest of moving to regional areas for work. They submitted a list of 20 families in need of going to the country. All the 20 families completed the bio data forms which include number of children, skills, job aspirations, etc.

I talked to the community organizers in Cooma about this opportunity and they were very happy to receive them on a weekend visit. In July 2018, I drove with the family representatives

from Sydney and Melbourne to have a look at Cooma before they can make a choice to know if that is the place they can like to live and work.

After the visit, 3 families from Melbourne decided to move to Cooma and they have now got jobs there and they are doing absolutely very well. They got jobs in Aged care, cleaning and meat works.

One of the ladies who is a qualified Mathematics teacher, had been for looking for jobs in Sydney but she could get because she was always asked to get an Australian teaching experience of 5 years. That was a great challenge for her because, how could she otherwise get the experience of 5 years in Australia, without starting? Yet she can to Australia on a skilled migrant visa as a qualified teacher.

But when we visited Cooma for the first time, the locals organized to meet with the school head teacher at St. Patrick Catholic and she was offered an interview which she successfully passed and she was offered a job now starting this September and her whole family moving with her.

It is like that toward the end of this year, we may be having may be about 7 families living in Cooma from Indian background.

Challenge: Most of the Indian families have no permanent residence or Citizenship. But through the community, we hope that they can support them to get their papers.

## **2.5. Lismore**

In this year, Musoni got in contact with Dr Michael Douglas who wants to settle families on his farm to live in houses and use his farm land. Musoni invited some families from Brisbane to visit the areas and two families visited. At the moment one family is living on the property, the other one may relocate at the end of the year because they were tied up to the contract.

In this model of Lismore, we are looking at extended the program to other farmers who can be generous to give their farms and support the families to have gardens.

On the other hand, we have tried to engage with Lismore Catholic Diocese on whether they can agree to give some of their unused land to families that would want to have gardens. The rationale is that, churches have plenty of unused land that can be used by those who are able to grow crops and keep such lands productive, keep them clean. In so doing, we believe the Catholic Church will be fulfilling their compassionate mission. We are still in talks hopefully things will materialise positively.

## **2.6. Cowra**

We have now one in Cowra yet, but the purpose it to try a pilot on direct resettlement from Africa to regional areas, with a chance of getting a job and starting life light away. We have had



conversations with Humanitarian Settlement Program managers on the possibility of their support to such families and they said that they can still support such families who are within the period of 0-6 months, even when they are in regional areas. We will believe you more on this next time.

### 3. Computer literacy project

GLAPD Int. launched computer literacy classes on the 14th May 2018. Classes take place on Mondays from 11am to 1pm at GLAPD Int. office in Fairfield (Suite 4/1 The Crescent, Fairfield). These are free classes for all interested community members from the Great Lakes region of Africa (Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo, Uganda and Kenya) as well as any other Africans interested in the program. So far, participants in the program are mainly elderly from our communities, they have demonstrated commitment into learning how to use computers and this is shown by how they regularly attend classes and keen to learn more every day.



Computer literacy project.  
Participants with their facilitator  
Florence Abera.



#### **4. GLAPD Sports Gala (25<sup>th</sup> November 2017)**

GLAPD Int. Sports Gala was held on Saturday, November 25, 2017 at the Minto Indoor Sports Centre. More than 200 people from four communities (Rwanda, Burundian, Ugandan and Congolese) came together for the third time to play different games, socialise and network. We all know that sport is a great tool for social cohesion and GLAPD Int. organises every year the Sports Gala to reconnect these communities.

Each community had five teams to play five games (indoor soccer, basketball, Netball, Volleyball and Table tennis). It was a wonderful occasion to see all the community members committed to team work and all the fans cheering their teams. The winners, best teams and best players won trophies and medals and a hamper full of different items was given to the person who predicted most of the wins for all the game.

Some feedback was received stating that the venue was too hot with no air conditioning and some of the teams were not very well prepared. Therefore, we decided to change the venue for the next sports Gala and requested all the community leaders to allocate plenty of time to prepare their teams for the next event. We look forward to a better and bigger event in November 2018.

#### **5. Detention harms Health March (7<sup>th</sup> April 2018)**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018, The Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) hosted a MARCH at Hyde Park, Sydney to protest against the off-shore detention of asylum seekers and refugees. The theme of the March was "DETENTION HARMS HEALTH". More than 300 students, doctors, health professionals, and refugee advocacy groups marched through the city to raise awareness about the harmful effects of Australia's ongoing policy of mandatory, offshore detention on refugee health. The speakers were Prof David Isaacs (pediatrician and refugee advocate), George Newhouse (Human rights lawyer), Dr Peter Young (Psychiatrist) and Dr Nadine Shema.

This was also a great opportunity for GLAPD Int. to raise awareness about the contribution of some refugees in Australia and the amazing regional and rural resettlement program pioneered by GLAPD Int. through which many refugee families have been able to rejuvenate some rural declining communities. GLAPD Int. was also fortunate to raise some funds for the program which has been unfunded since its inception.

In her speech, Dr Shema made a number of insightful statements:

"They [refugees] are human beings, not numbers, not objects," Dr Shema said.

“It shouldn’t be about how they [refugees] came to Australia or what means of transport they used to come to Australia, but mostly it will be because of why they came to Australia.”

After the speeches, everyone joined the march around the city chanting, holding banners / posters and speaking out in support of refugees. Afterward, at the end of the march a group of medical students, doctors, health professions and refugee advocate headed to the Cockatoo Island to take some photos in front of a boat full of refugees portraying the conditions in which refugees travel fleeing their countries for a safe place which was exhibited by Ai Weiwei, a Chinese artist and activist.





- 1 and 3: GLAPD Int. members at the “Detention harms Health” March.
2. Dr Shema and Prof Isaacs showcasing how Australians should welcome refugees with a smile and a hug.
4. Protesters marching with banners and posters.
5. Protesters in front of the Ai Weiwei’s boat full of refugees.

## 6. GLAPD Int. Harmony day (19th May 2018)

On the 19th May 2018, GLAPD Int. celebrated its annual Harmony Day at Town Hall in Granville. It was again a great opportunity to catch up for all the African Great Lakes community members as well as the mainstream Australian community. We had the privilege to welcome the Kenyan community among the Great Lakes communities as one of the new community to be part of our organisation. Previously, GLAPD Int. was serving 4 communities namely the Rwandan, the Burundian, the Ugandan and the Democratic Republic of Congo communities, however, with our mission to expand our services to more communities, Kenya was the one to join and we look forward to including more African communities in the future. This year, we were honoured to have several guests including Amb. Matthew Neuhaus, GLAPD Int. patron, Hon. Julia Finn, the Member for Granville and Mr Paul Power, the Director of the Refugee Council of Australia just to mention a few.



An audience of more than 200 men, women and children gathered to celebrate their identity and their cultures through spectacular dances and fashion show, delicious traditional food, beautiful art crafts and inspirational speeches from community leaders and guest speakers. All the community leaders and the guests had the honour to cut the cake on which it was written "TOGETHER AS ONE" as a sign of unity and harmony. We look forward to a bigger and better event for our next Harmony day celebration in March 2019.

- 1. Town Hall Granville
- 2. Amb. Matthew Neuhaus (GLAPD Int.'s patron) and wife Angela Neahaus.
- 3. Exhibition of art crafts\_ Ms Chisenga (Fashion designer) with Amb. Matthew
- 4. All community leaders and guests cutting the cake as a sign of "UNITY"



## 7. Research projects

GLAPD Int. created partnerships with some Lead Universities in NSW to carry out research projects in several fields of community development in order to have evidence-based research to inform policies and enable the development and implementation of evidence-based projects to effectively respond to the unmet needs and issues of our communities.

Currently, GLAPD Int. is carrying out three research projects in partnership with the University of New South Wales and the Western Sydney University. The research titles are:

- “Understanding the challenges and issues related to settlement process of migrants from the Great Lakes Region in Australia”.  
This research project is conducted in partnership with the University of New South Wales, it has already obtained ethics approval, the data have been collected and it is at the stage of data analysis.
- “African women migrants' and refugees' access to reproductive health services in South Western Sydney: a pilot study”.  
This research project is conducted in partnership with the University of New South Wales/School of Public Health and Community Medicine, it has already obtained ethics approval and data collection has been done. It is at the stage of data analysis.
- “Understandings and responses to domestic violence in the African Great Lakes Communities of Western Sydney”.  
This research project is conducted in partnership with Western Sydney University, it has already obtained ethics approval and it is at the stage of data collection.

## IV. 2016-2017 Financial report