

“I was a person who could not talk to anyone in my village and at school. My life was very bitter. I always had worries about my mother. I was forced to be always near her.” (Marie, daughter of a widowed genocide survivor)

“Even if my father was a killer, I’m not. Why to be considered like my father, while in 1994 I was 4 years old?” (Jean, son of a father imprisoned for genocide crimes)

The 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda stands out as a life with over one million people killed and deep psychological wounds among the Rwandan population, genocide survivors in particular. For that reason, during its immediate post-genocide years, Rwanda represented a traumatic watershed for the humanitarian sector. However, the country soon showed all indication of moving quickly towards socioeconomic prosperity. This quick transcendence of the deep despair and chaos Rwanda was immersed in has been seen by many as evidence of a remarkable resilience among the Rwandan population. Resilience in this context is particularly linked to economic growth, which does not tell us much about resilience conceived as counteracting the Rwandan genocide-related forces and processes that led to individual and social trauma, nor does it tell us if and to what extent both kinds of resilience are linked to psychosocial wellbeing and mental health across Rwanda’s population (Hernández, 2002; IDS, 2013).

In this short communication I will touch upon the issues raised based on my research experience within the program of community-based sociotherapy in Rwanda (Richters, Rutayisire & Slegh, 2013, Richters & Sarabwe, 2014; Rutayisire & Richters, 2014). While the generations that lived through the genocide, gradually more attention is paid to an inclusion of the ‘generations after’ in the implementation and research components of this program. In this communication I will give some arguments for the relevance of this inclusion and raise some intergenerational resilience-related issues that need further study. My hypothesis is that while the acute post-genocide humanitarian emergency in Rwanda has been tackled, the seeds of a different kind of emergency have already been sown. If this is indeed the case, and I will give some indications that it is, continuous humanitarian assistance is warranted. In order to substantiate my argument I need

