

1994

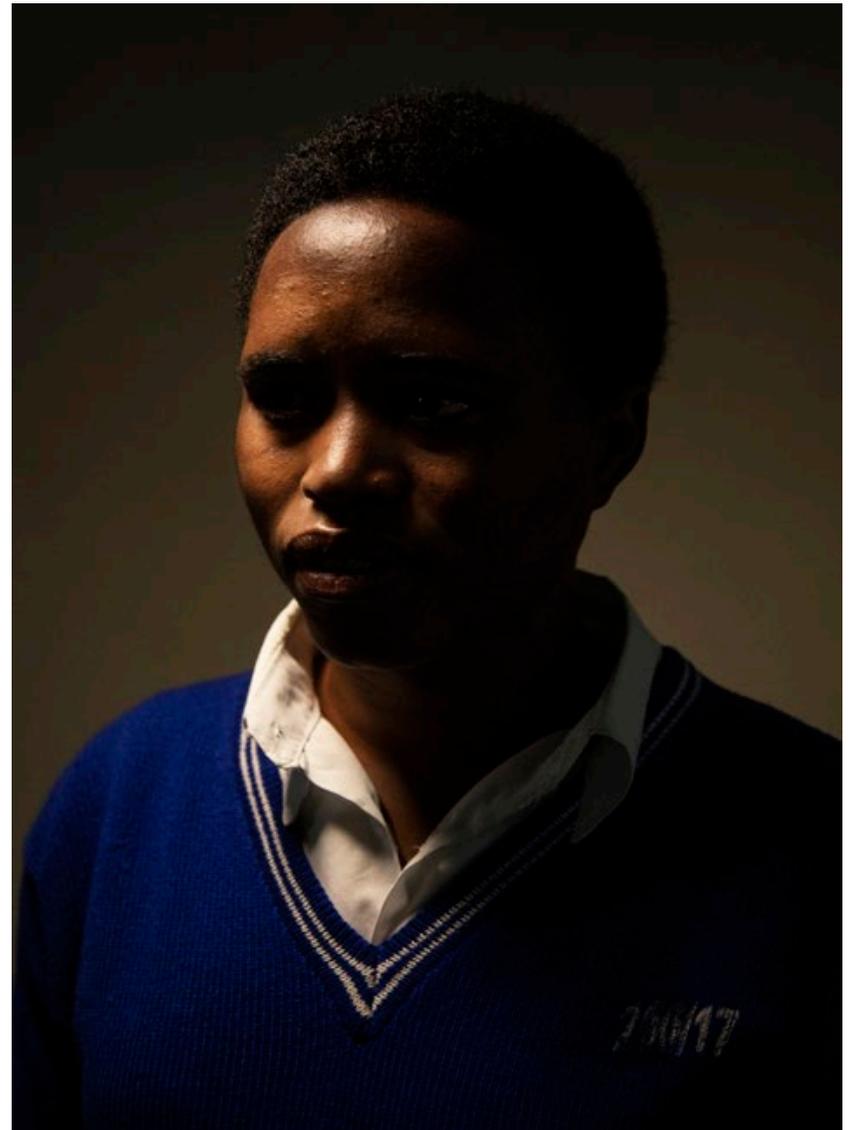
Rwanda

Portraits of a new generation



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parallelzero



In 1994 the genocide in Rwanda created 400,000 orphans, with many born in refugee camps. The loss of their parents deeply affected the lives of these children and the adults who survived.

How did the generation born in Rwanda between 1994 and 1999 grow up, as the country sought to forget its tragic past? How did these boys and girls, now between 20 and 25 years of age, come to terms with the experience of genocide? What are their hopes for their future and the future of their country?

In the Rwanda of today young people must deal with a situation that offers few job opportunities once they have left school. Some dream of setting up in business on their own, others would like to devote themselves to helping the community avoid repeating the nightmares of the past while many resign themselves to a life of manual work.

In the post-genocide generation, 560,000 graduates are unemployed and survive through casual work. Others open small shops attracted by the wealth generated by huge government investment programmes in tourism. However, in a country where 80% of the economy is still based on subsistence agriculture there are few opportunities, and those that do exist are only available to a small section of the population.

For many of these young people their experiences have left a still-open wound, making them insecure and suspicious of one another.



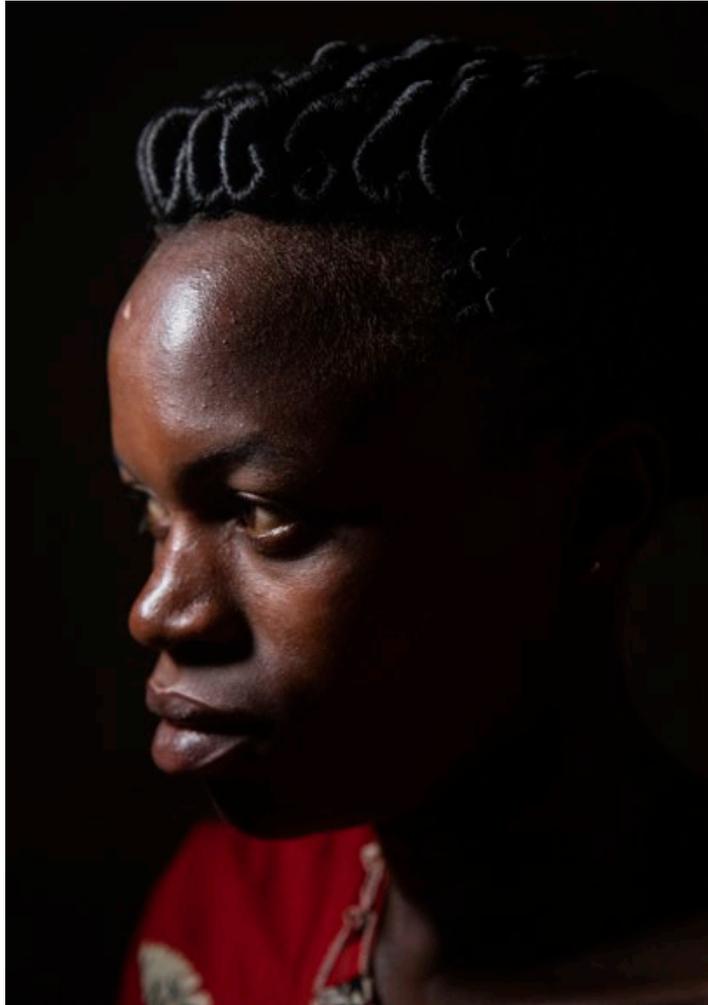
Theodore Nizeyumukiza - 26/06/1994

Born during the genocide, he is studying at the bishopric of Musanze, in the north of the country, to become a priest. "My aim is to help young people of my generation, especially orphans and the most needy, often suffering from deep psychological trauma".



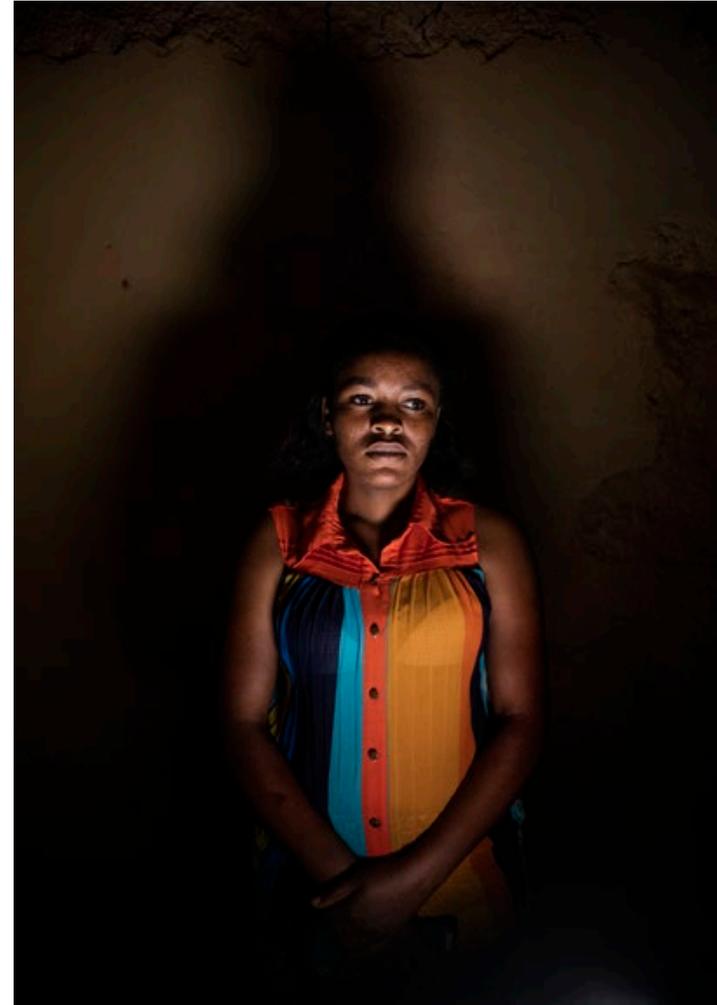
Aline Musabyemariya - 01/01/1994

Lost her father during the genocide, as well as all her other relatives. Her mother's traumatic experiences mean she now suffers from psychiatric problems. Aline had twin siblings, who recently died. "I earn just enough to survive by working in a kitchen, even though I have a hairdressing diploma".



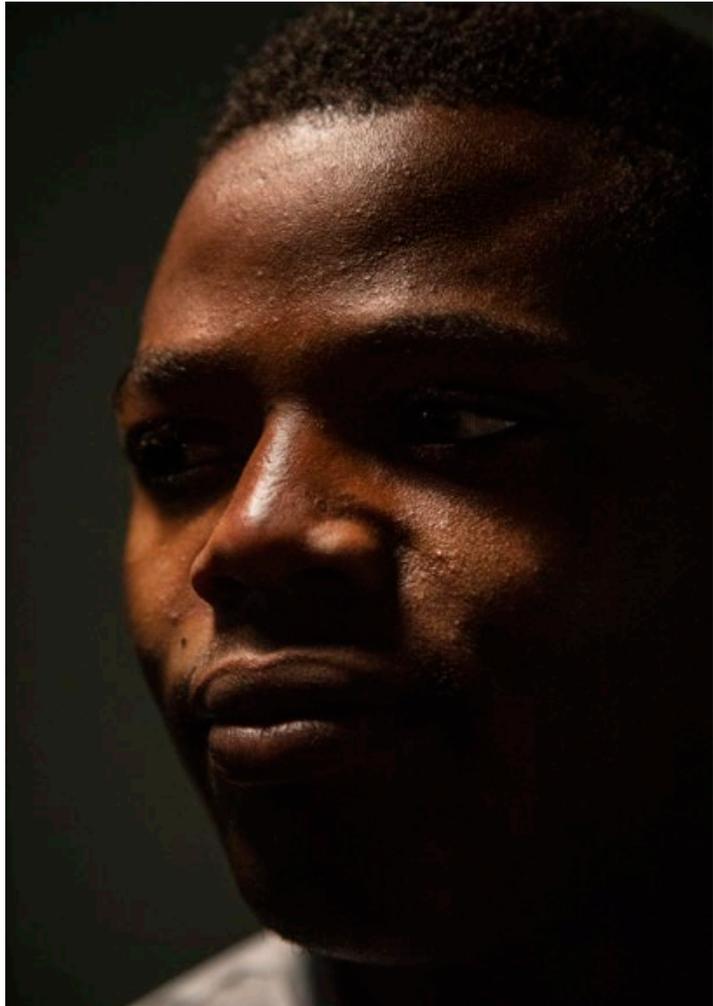
Sylvie Uwingeneye - 26/03/1994

Born two weeks before the outbreak of the genocide, she lost her father a month later when he was killed by the militia. The youngest of four sisters, she was brought up by her mother. "I found out about the genocide when I was six. I was deeply troubled by it". She began a long psychological recovery, which is still under way. She is married and has a daughter. She and her husband support themselves by farming.



Jeanne Niragire - 14/10/1994

After the genocide, Jeanine, her parents and four siblings returned from the west where they had fled to find their home looted and destroyed by Interahamwe militias. A government support programme enabled them to find a new home. "My oldest sister was the first person to talk to me about the genocide. Now I'm married and I have a child".



Innocent Niyonzima - 10/06/1994

Born during the genocide, he had an extremely tough childhood. He is now attending trade school in Musanze. "I'd like to study for a degree in programming, I'm interested in the tourism business in the area where the gorillas live. I don't want to talk about the genocide".



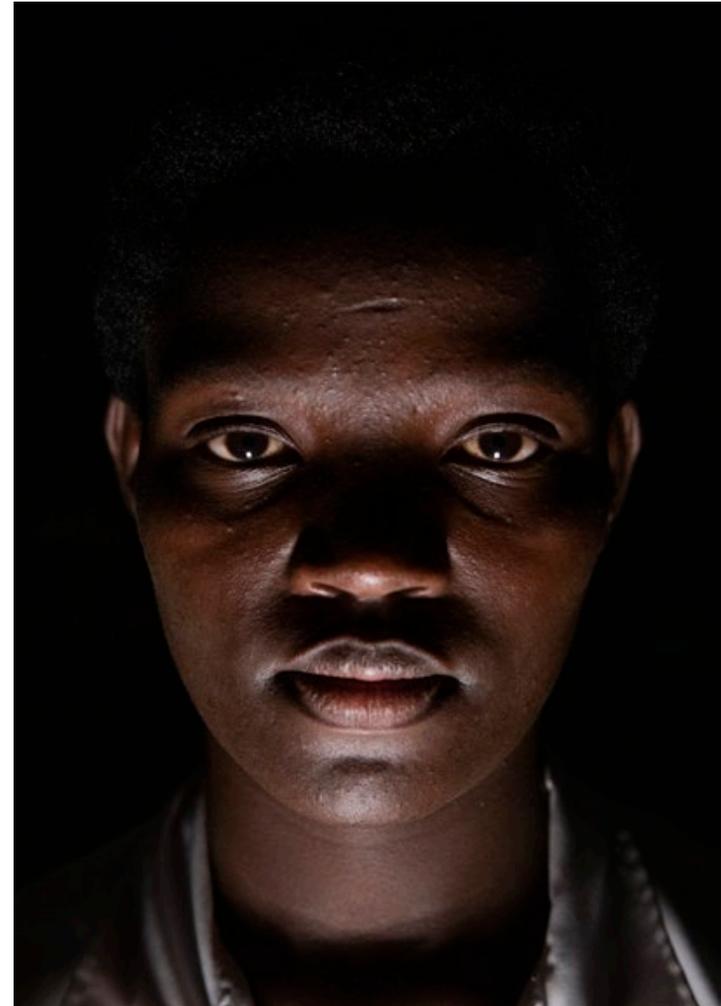
Alice Mukahabano - 07/06/1994

Her father was killed during the genocide as he was trying to escape into the countryside. Now she only has her mother. "I can't explain how people can get up one morning and slaughter their neighbours". A support project by the AVSI NGO has enabled Alice to study public relations at university. "When I graduate I hope to find work in a big company".



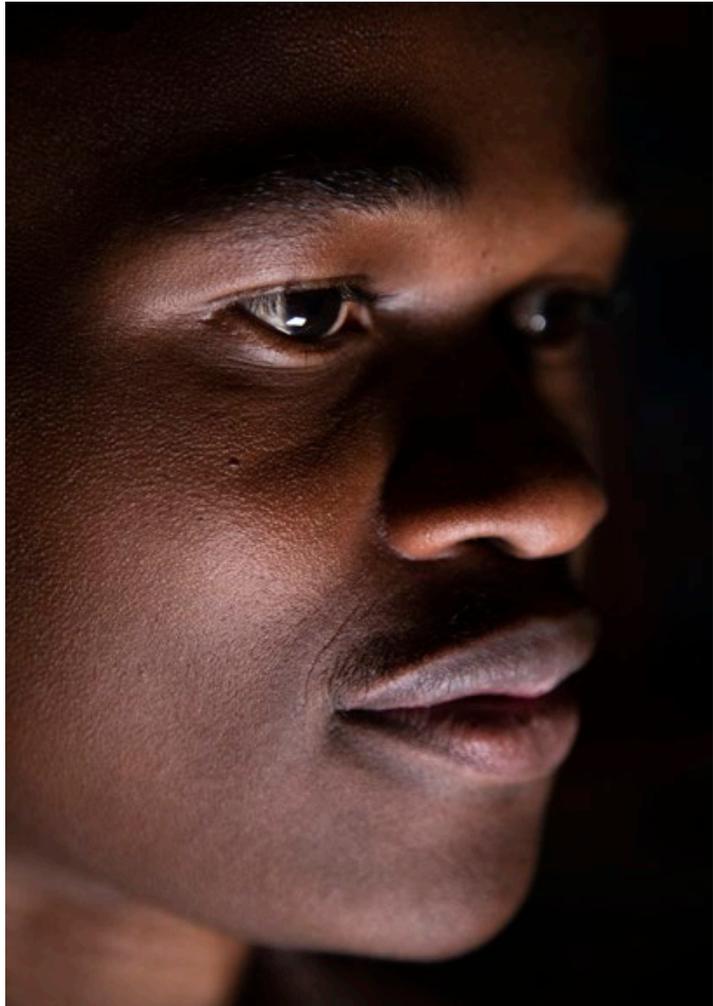
Aldo Abijuru - 24/8/1994

He lost his father during the genocide. Inspired by his older brother, he took advantage of support project to graduate in science. He has a special talent for business, and has opened a carpentry workshop and a chicken farm. "I heard about the genocide for the first time when I was five. I tell everyone to work hard, because that's the only way we can reconstruct and heal the wounds inflicted on the community".



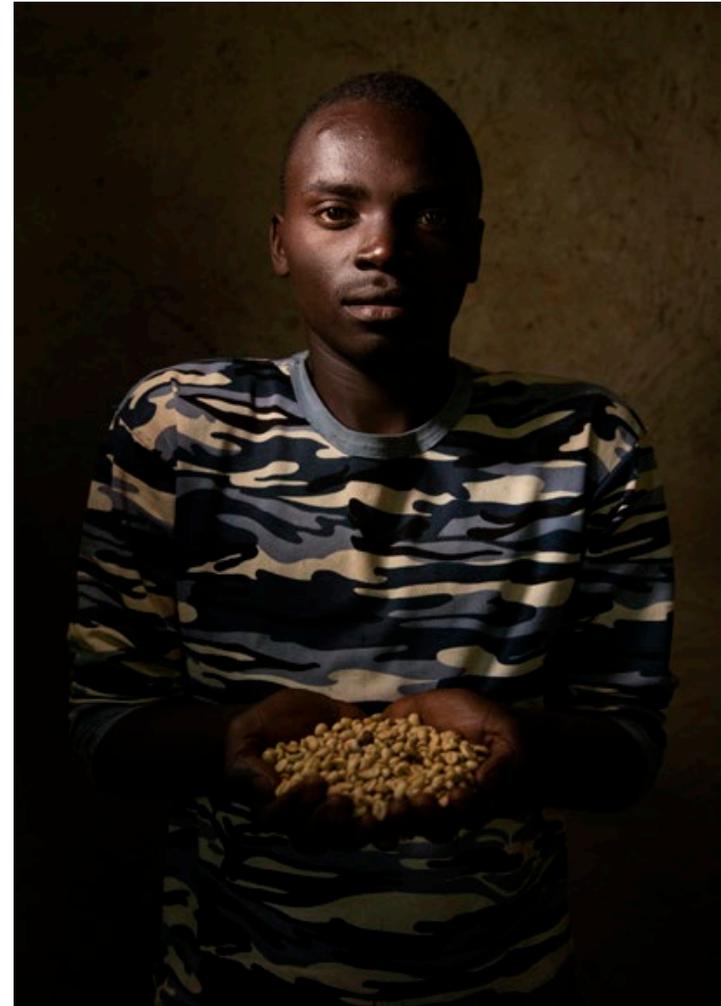
Antoinette Twamugize - 25/06/1994

She was born during the genocide, but her father was killed by the Interahamwe militia group. She was brought up by her maternal grandparents. They were the first to talk to her about the genocide. "I took an interest in the genocide, watching videos and talking with friends. I still can't explain how someone can become a killer overnight". She teaches in the Kintua Kagèyo primary school.



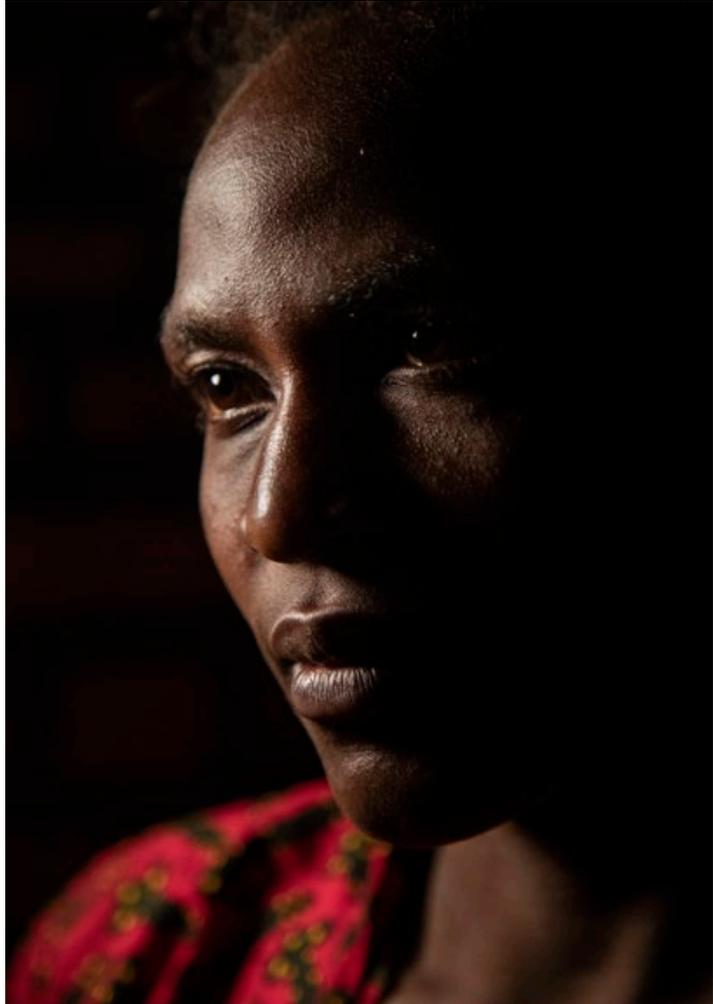
David Ndagiwenimana - 01/01/1994

Lost both parents and five siblings. His home was destroyed by the Interahamwe militia. "I grew up with my elder sister. I was seriously undernourished when the AVSI found me". A support project has enabled him to graduate from the agronomy department. He now teaches maths and science in a primary school.



Benjamin Hangiyaremye - 01/04/1994

Lost his father during the genocide. "I don't remember exactly when in April my birthday is". He was brought up by his mother, and heard about the genocide for the first time on the radio. He married illegally and left school. "I'd like to start a coffee plantation. I want to become a wise man who serves his community".



Charlotte Mutetueabo - 11/11/1994

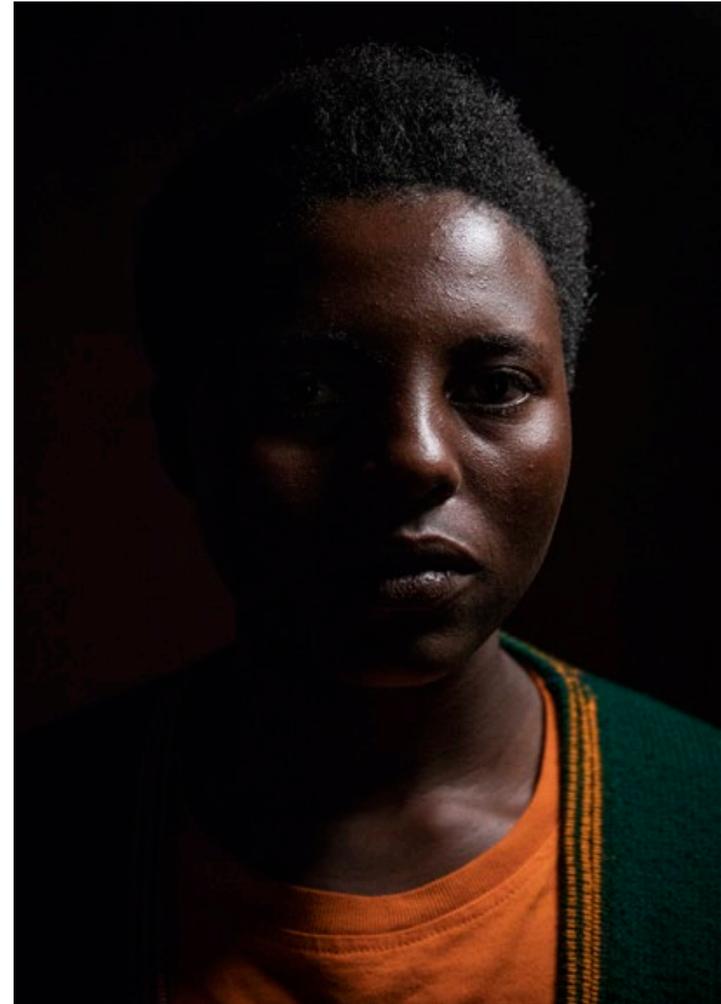
Single mother of a three-year-old child, Charlotte has been rejected by her family because she fell pregnant by a man she is not married to. She works as coordinator in a programme run by the NGO AVSI to train dressmakers. "My dream is to become a police officer, to uphold my country's security and prevent future genocides".



Gaudence Niyomura - 25/05/1994

She lost her father and two brothers, killed by Interahamwe militia in the garden of their home. "My mum, pregnant with me at the time, was smart enough to flee. She lived for a month among the papyrus reeds, with bananas for food. She died a few years after I was born". As a single mother, Gaudence has been rejected by the community, but a support project has enabled her to find work with a mining company.

1995



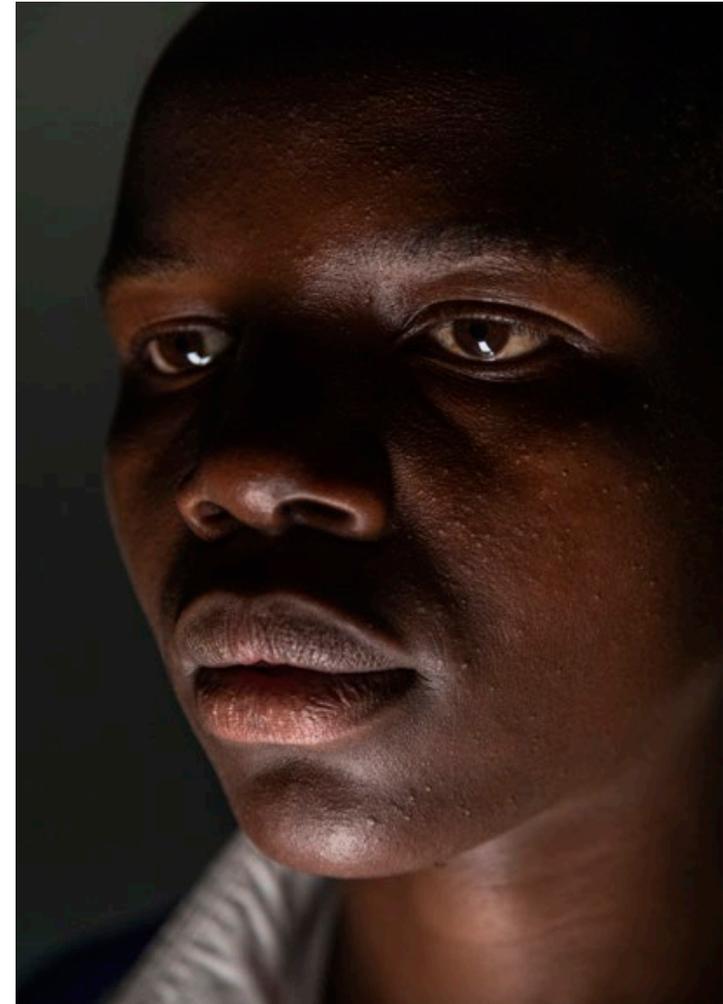
Collette Mashimiyimaiya - 18/05/1995

Single mother with a three-year-old child, she was rejected by her family and community. She has seven siblings, her father is frequently absent and he spends all his wages, living like a vagrant. They were brought up by their mother. After her pregnancy she began to hate herself and the child.



Eric Hakizimana - 10/01/1995

Eric is learning to be a bricklayer in a trade school in Kivumu, the Father Vjeko Center, which is named after the Bosnian priest known as the African Oskar Schindler because during the genocide he rescued hundreds of people. He was killed in 1998 in Kigali. "I'm passionate about music. I'd like to start a construction company and make lots of money".



Pelagie Nyiramahirwe - 14/07/1995

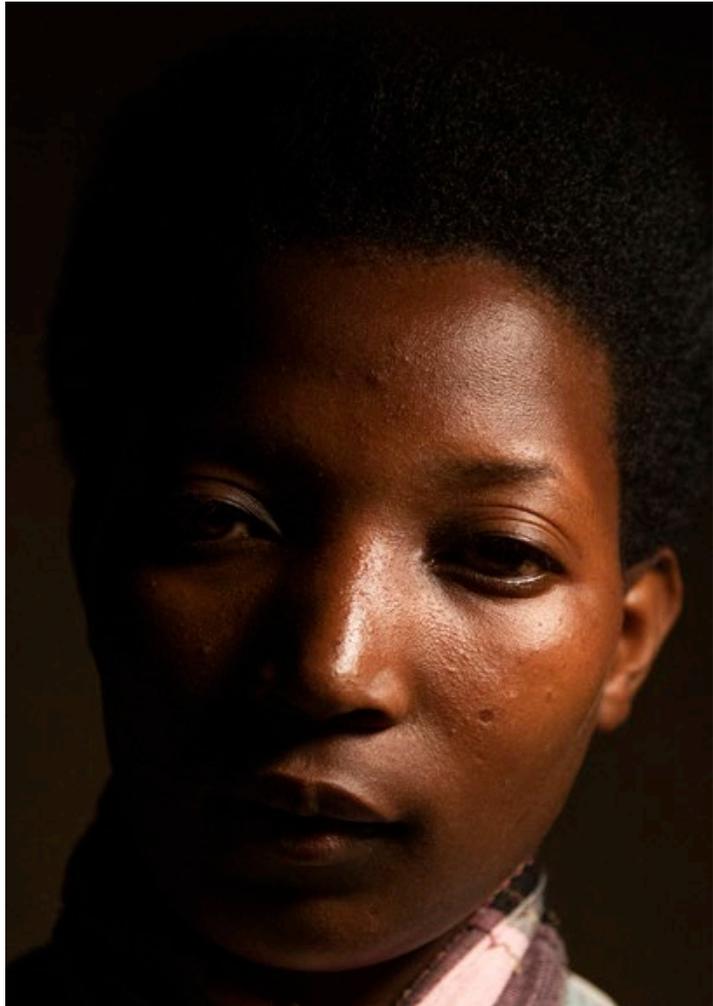
Pelagie is studying to be a mechanic in a trade school in Ruhengeri. He is attracted by the increasing wealth generated by gorilla tourism. "I'd like to open small workshop to repair the cars used for excursions to the volcanoes".

1996



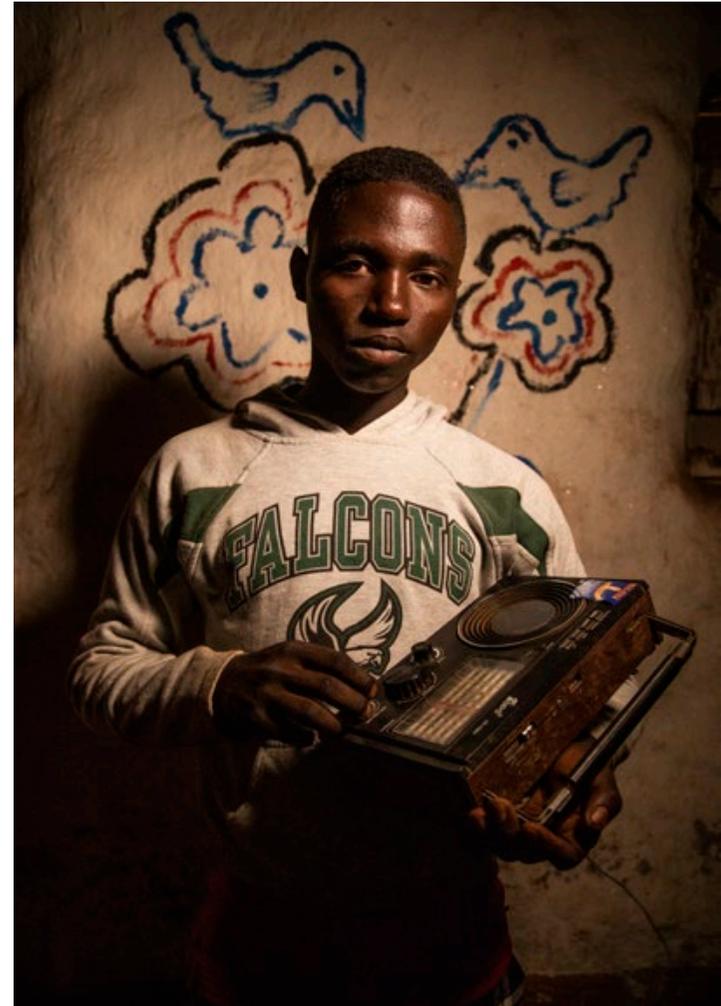
Jean De Dieu Nshimiyimana - 15/08/1996

Jean is studying cookery at a trade school in Musanze. With an increasing number of hotels being built in the area and gorilla tourism a growing attraction he says: "I'd like to become a top chef and work in the most luxurious hotels".



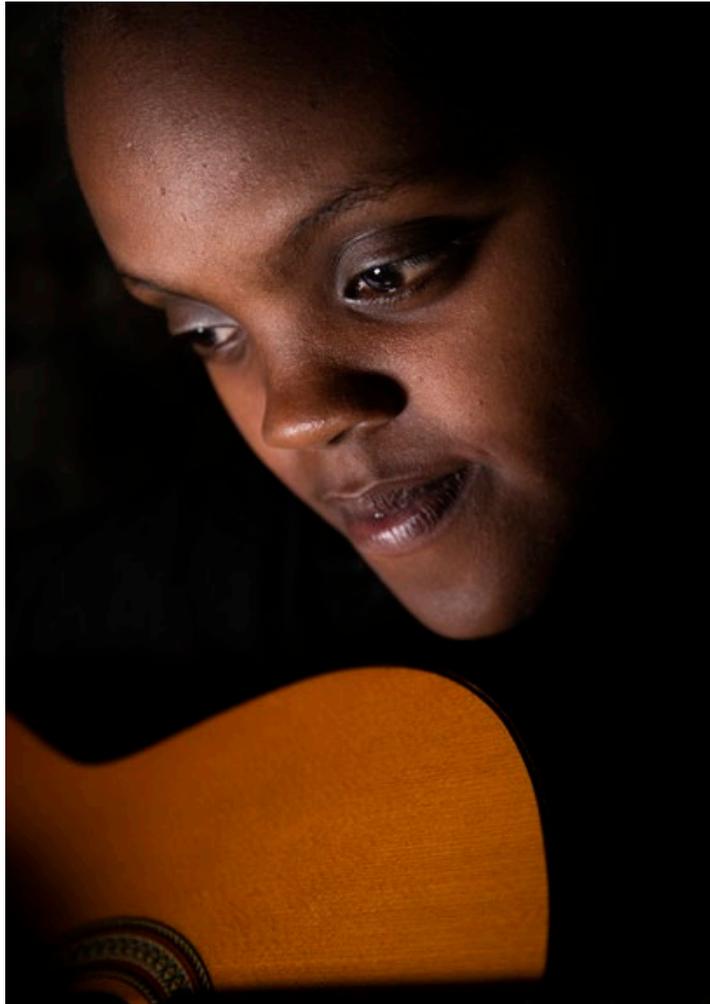
Viollett Irodukunda - 02/06/1996

Her childhood was a period of absolute poverty. Her parents fled the genocide, but returned a few years later. "I opened a small banana business that enables me to earn enough to eat twice a day and help the community". She cycles round the villages to transport her bananas from plantation to market.



Emmanuel Renzaho - 15/05/1996

Emmanuel lives in a very modest house in the hills with his family – his mother and sister. He first heard about the genocide in 2002, and was deeply troubled by it. "I still can't understand how it could happen. I'd like to be a journalist, possibly on TV". When he's not busy studying he spends his time in a music and electronics shop.



Claisse Cynthia Uwimana - 27/04/1996

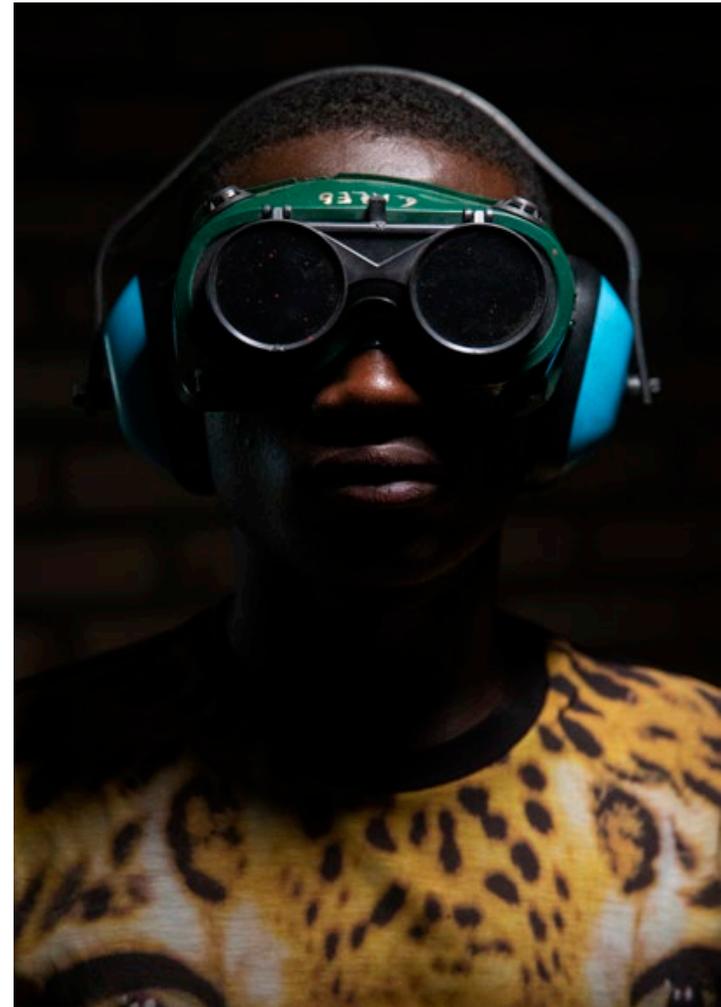
An orphan, she lives alone in a tiny house in Kigali. She's studying economics at university. "I'd like to become a top manager in a multinational. My dream is to earn money to help the community". She's also a singer songwriter, inspired by Kamariza, one of the country's finest guitarists.



Jeanbaptiste Iradukunda - 01/01/1996

Jeanbaptiste is studying carpentry. and he has a project. "I'd like to open a shop making furniture for the hotels in Gitarama city, just a few kilometres away".

1997



Theogene Ndohoyo - 02/07/1997

A trainee welder. "I'm passionate about football and basketball, but I don't know what to do in the future". He rejects weapons and everything symbolising the genocide.



Emmanuel Dusengimana - 18/11/1997

A trainee blacksmith at the Father Vjeko Center school in Kivumu. "I'm very happy with what I'm learning, but I worry that the genocide or something similar could happen again. I'll make efforts to help encourage dialogue among the members of the community".



Mussa Nyirimpuhwe - 01/01/1997

Studying carpentry. "In the future I'd like to move abroad, earn lots of money and escape the poverty I'm living in at the moment". Helped by long-distance support, he lives with his family in a small house in the country of Gitarama. "I don't willingly talk about the genocide".



Gerard Ndayisaba - 2/02/1997

Studying carpentry at a trade school in Kivumu. "When I've finished my studies I'd like to open a locksmith's shop supplying locks to the new buildings that are springing up all round here".



Noah Manishimue - 25/09/1997

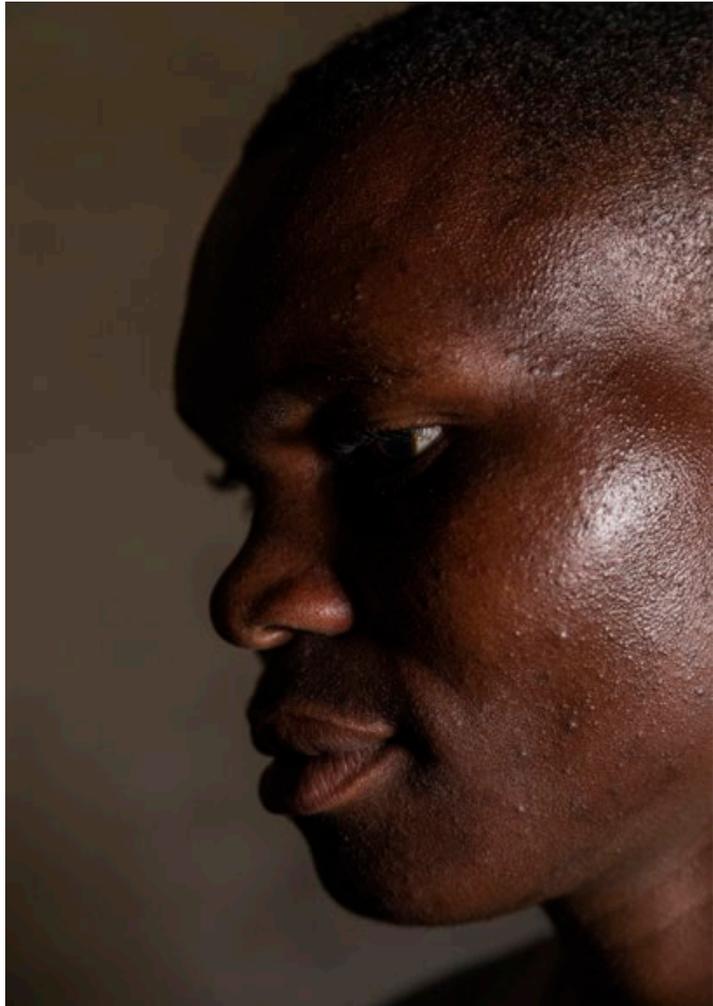
A trainee bricklayer. "I hope to set up a cooperative to share the expenses with my fellow students". He, too, complains of the absence of programmes that would help him enter the world of work.

1998



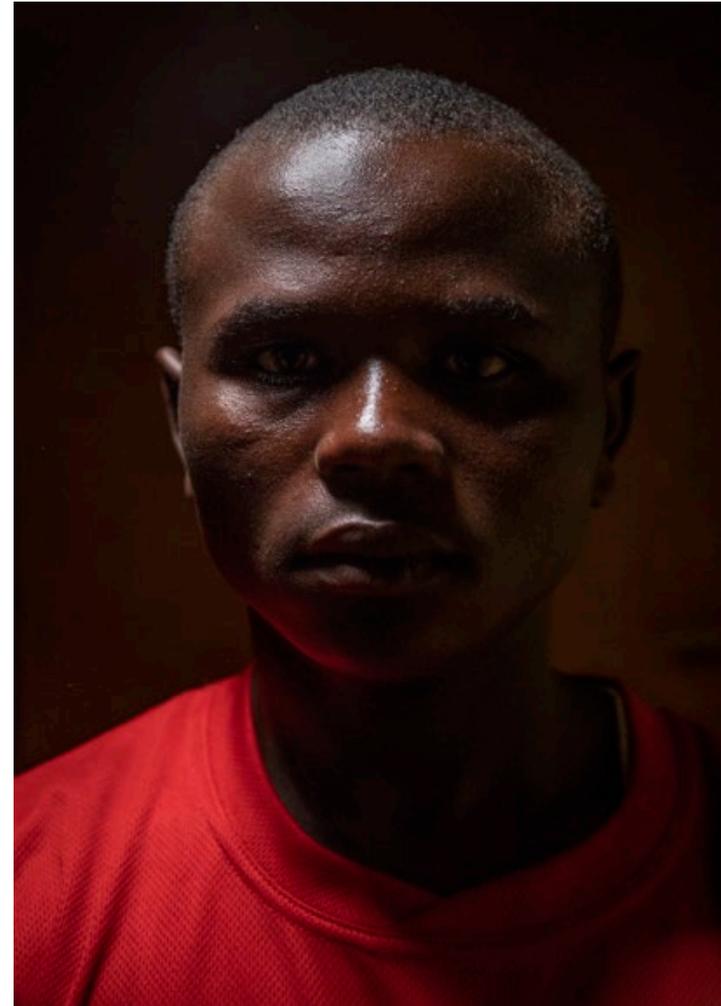
Alain Nziza Shakul - 28/09/1998

A trainee bricklayer, but his real ambition is to be a rapper. He has already formed a small crew with his classmates. They have been criticised for their aggressive language. "I'd like to move to Kigali and break into the music world. I want to sell records in America, too".



Daniel Iradukunda - 01/07/1998

Studying to become a carpenter. "I don't have any particular ambitions in life, but I'm frightened by the prospect of unemployment. I really don't want to talk about the genocide, it's still an open wound in my family".



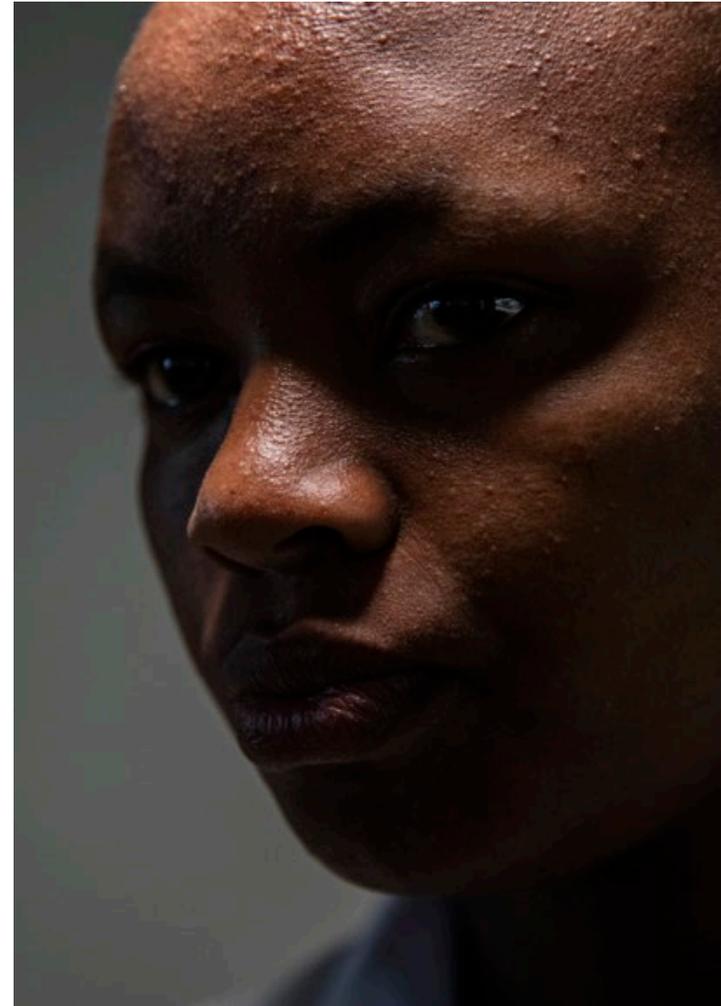
Emmanuel Turinayo - 23/12/1998

Emmanuel is helped by a training programme to become a welder at the Jardin De Los Ninos, an NGO based in Padova. He does voluntary work in a community for HIV-positive people. "Too often," he says, "These people have been forgotten, especially after the genocide".



Pamphile Jraduhunda - 25/09/1998

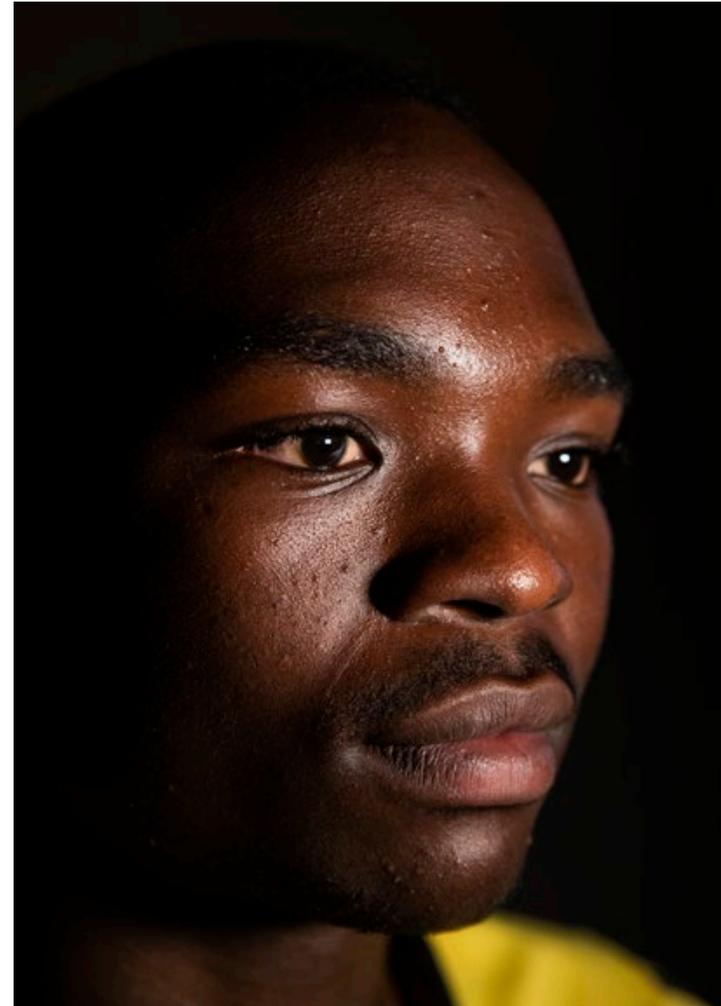
A trainee welder. "I'd like to open a cooperative with my future colleagues to share the costs".



Assia Mukandori - 03/05/1998

Studying to become a cook. She is interested in the large hotels in the area, where an excursion to see the gorillas costs 1,500 dollars a day. "I'd like to work for the big hotels and earn enough for a nice new home".

1999



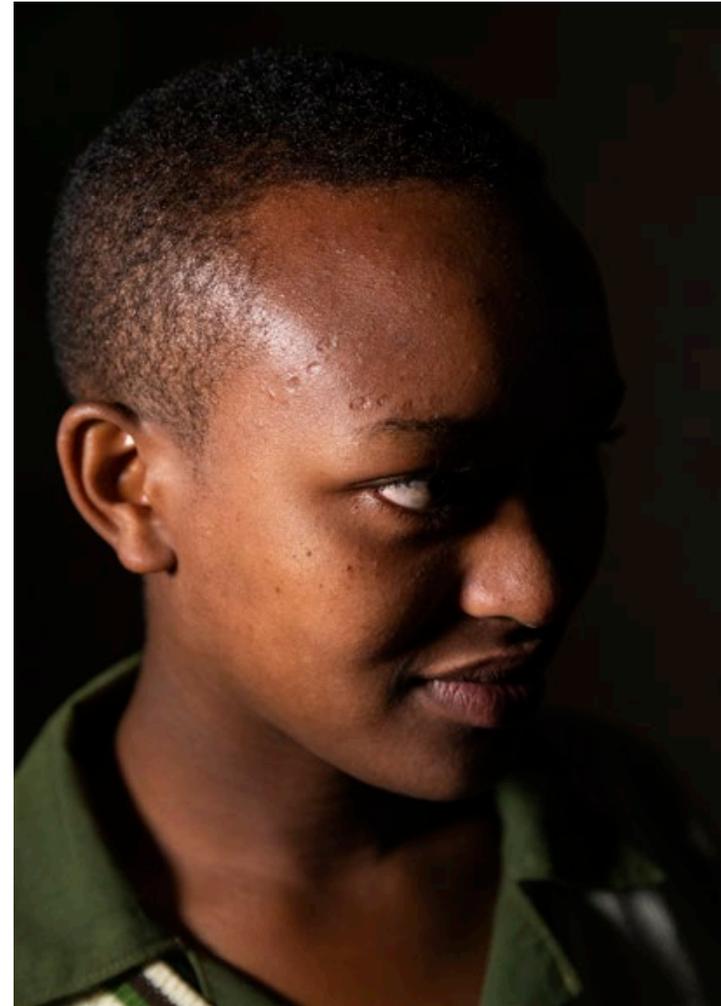
Evariste Kazungu - 17/03/1999

He is studying carpentry. "My life is destined to be fraught with difficulties. I don't think the future can get better fast enough for me to see a better world".



Yvonne Masengesho - 31/12/1999

A trainee welder. "I'm the only woman in a school full of men. They often joke about me but I don't care". She supports herself by working in the fields with her family and selling her produce in the local markets.



Laetitia Uwase - 14/11/1999

Studying to be a computer programmer in Musanze, helped by an enrolment programme. "I'm not too keen on studying and I don't know what I'll do in the future. I look at the past and reflect deeply on the consequences of the genocide. I have many questions that I can't find the answers to".



Theoneste Kwizera - 01/01/1999

Like many other people his age, his date of birth is registered as 1 January. Born in a refugee camp, he returned to Kivumu with his mother where they scrape a living from subsistence agriculture. "I'm studying to become a bricklayer, I'd like to start a small company and help my mum".



Dieudonné Jhwizera - 12/02/1999

A trainee bricklayer. He has a scar on his face but doesn't want to say how he got it. "I hope to live in peace in the future. I want to watch football matches and talk as little as possible about the genocide".

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