



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

21st Century

Producer: Ekaterina Skvortsova
Script version: FINAL
Duration: 4':07"

RUNNING FOR PEACE – IN CONGO

INTRO

A refugee, who fled the Democratic Republic of Congo for the United States, discovered he had a talent for running. Now he's running for peace in both countries.

VIDEO

Title: Cleveland, United States

AUDIO

My name is Makorobondo "Dee" Kamongwa Salukombo. I was born in DR Congo in a tiny little village of Kirotshe. I was only 6 years old and I basically I witnessed the whole genocide of Rwanda from across the border. (17")

TEXT ON THE SCREEN:

Makorobondo came to Cleveland, United States, as a refugee at the age of 15 along with his family.(5")

I never ran in Congo. The only time we run

SUPER

Makorobondo Salukombo
Founder of Project Kirotshe

GVS MAKOROBONDO AT
HOME LOCATIONS

was actually running from bullets. But as a sport I learned that thing here. That just started something for me (...) Everybody was just talking about that runner is good, is good, is good.. By the time I finished college I already went to regionals, I went to national championships. Only one thing was left, the Olympics. (23”)

GVS MAKOROBONDO
IN CONGO RUNNING

But as I was finishing school I wanted also to do something educational to help my village. Because most of these kids, they are born, they have spent all their lives in wars. They don't have long time goals, it's just really short. It's just like...will I be alive tomorrow. (19”)

TEXT ON SCREEN:
In 2012 he returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo to train young runners for the 2016 Rio Olympics. (6”)

The first day I had full practice. So I told them: we're starting practice on this day. At 3 in the morning over 300 kids showed up at my house. They're knocking in the door, are we going to run yet? I looked outside - it's pitch black. And I'm like what are you guys doing - we came to run, we came to run. And I like - it's 3 in the morning and they like - we know, we know, we're waiting right here. (26”)

TEXT ON SCREEN:

Makorobondo competed in the Marathon at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

His trainee

Beatrice Kamuchanga ran the 5000 metres. (8")

RIO OLYMPICS B-ROLL

I finished...I was happy. Not only for myself, but for those kids in Kirotshe. I told them we'd make it. And we made it and we finished. Right now we want to win our first medal. (15")

The other change that the project has brought is through the education, especially for the girls. Most of the girls by the time they get 15,16,17 they already have kids, they're already married. (13")

Just because their parents can't afford to keep them in school. So, one of the things I tried to push with my girls on the team and I encouraged them to go in the community and talk to their friends. I think giving them the security of education puts their feet down. With the project actually this year we were able to pay for 65 athletes. (65")

TEXT ON THE SCREEN:

Funded by the network of donors in the United States, Project Kirotshe pays for the education of students participating in the running club.

I have this kid, his name is Kono. So once I told him we'll take off your tuition... He cried. And he was like - okay, then I never sleep hungry. And I'll be the best runner. (12")

It's not just about the running, it's a great way to teach, to teach the youth. About discipline, about teamwork, about togetherness, and I think that's the problem with Congo. We have almost 450 dialects. So many people from different places and I think not having a common purpose, a common objective it just keeps pulling people apart. (30")

The peace starts through the heads, through people coming together, I wish I can just move what we've done in Kirotshe to different cities in the Congo, and I think that will cause harmony because we'll be in one. (15")

TEXT ON THE SCREEN:

The United Nations
#WePlayTogether campaign
promotes sport as a
tool for peace,
inclusion and unity.