



“EMPOWERING 200 WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE”

Mission Statement: Aspire Rwanda equips vulnerable women and youth with knowledge and skills to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

I. Background:

Since 2009, Aspire Rwanda provides resilient and hard-working women and youth with the skills and confidence to make their own choices, become self-sufficient, and take control of their lives. To achieve this, Aspire Rwanda offers a variety of programs to empower women and youth through vocational and business skills training, micro-credit loans and agricultural support (for participants living in rural areas) as well as a robust social empowerment and health education program.

Since the organization was established, we have assisted 1,300 women beneficiaries in several areas. In Gisozi, our participants include women and youth in a program supported by Network for Africa, have been our Agricultural program, 544 women have been supported. 756 women and youth graduated from our vocational training programs in catering, hair dressing and childcare. Of these women, 300 are now employed by different institutions while the remaining 456 women are self-employed and are managing their own businesses.

This is due to Aspire’s microloan opportunity for women wishing to have their businesses. 508 children from poor families have passed through our childcare center. Currently, we nurture and educate 60 children from poor families.

Funds from this campaign will enable us to support one hundred women from Gikomero sector, a rural area of Gasabo District. Each woman will benefit from health, socio-civic and business skills training as well as participating in pig farming project. This means that each woman will be given a pig that will provide her with a source of income. Aspire Rwanda will provide pigs with their necessary components like shelter, food, medicine and veterinary costs for the pigs. The goal of this project is to allow women to acquire a steady source of income which will improve their lives.

Project/Program Title	“Women empowerment for Sustainable Development”
Funding Focus Area	Women Economic Development
Requested Cash Amount	\$ 50,000.
Project/Program Start Date	01/01/2020
Project/Program End Date	31/12/2021
Contact details of focal point of CSO	Peace RUZAGE E-mail: aspirerwanda@gmail.com / Tel: (+250)788 859 264

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II. Project Description

A. Need

The “Empowering 200 women in sustainable Agriculture project “is based on our experience of empowering women economically through vocational skills, business and agricultural training .Our new project is based upon the need that we see. These needs include: difficulty in accessing employment due to gender barriers, education and poverty.

The Rwandan population is composed mostly of women, according to the provisional results of the recently conducted General Population and Housing Census in 2012. This survey showed that women make 51.8% of the Rwanda population while men account 48.2%. However, even though women make up more than fifty percent of the population ,men hold the majority of job making it difficult for women to find employment. Therefore, women need additional support and training to make a sustainable income and to achieve financial independence.

According to Enquête Intégrale sur les Conditions de Vie des ménages 5 (*EICV 5*),the *short term* dynamics between 2013/14and 2016/17 shows that the net poverty reduction between 2013/14 and 2016/17 is only 1.73 percentage points and this change is statistically insignificant, large movements in and out of poverty have occurred. The data shows that 24.6 percent stayed in poverty in the two surveyed years (2013/14 and 2016/17) and 11.7 percent moved into poverty in 2016/17 while they were non poor in 2013/14 and 13.4 percent are non-poor in 2016/17.This survey demonstrates the increased need to support vulnerable women and families who have moved into poverty.

Using the same survey mentioned above , it showed that the poverty rate in Gasabo District ,the poverty rate is 15.8% and the extreme poverty rate is 4.5%. The amount attending primary schools is 86.4% while the percentage of children attending secondary is only 33%.

This statistic is important because it shows the drastic transition as their families cannot afford to pay the fees associated with education. Since many families cannot afford to send their kids to schools ,this often leads to unwanted pregnancies and health problems.

According to Gasabo District Human Security Issues (HIS) /March 2019, Gikomero Sector enrolled 32 unwanted pregnancies and 115 school dropouts. These young women are the ones we wish to help in our project so that they do not continue to live in poverty.

As the scarcity of land increases, Rwandan’s small farms can hardly sustain a family let alone contribute to the economy. The project that we propose would help families to generate a sustainable income and aid them in transitioning out of poverty. Pig farming is a quick and profitable business that would allow many women and their families to achieve financial stability. Hence, we would like to propose a one year project to help one hundred women in Guikomero sector Of Gasabo District.

B. Project Components

Our project will fall under the activities of “ Empowering 200 women in sustainable development “. The participants will take part in a baseline and end-line survey .This is to assess the knowledge & socio-economic status of participants before the project starts and their achievements at the end of the project. In terms of project monitoring,visits will be conducted frequently to both farming sites and individual homes.

The project will cover many subjects such as :

- (1) Reproductive health and family planning
- (2) Hygiene and Nutrition
- (3) Civic Education including women and children’s rights and Human trafficking
- (4) Pig farming
- (5) Entrepreneurship

The trainings will be followed by direct pig farming support with 200 pigs including shelter, medicines/vaccines, food and veterinary services and frequent follow-up visits.

C. Sustainability

The knowledge that participants will gain from the trainings will become a lifelong toolkit they can use to address many issue, take action to address many them and sharing it to other community members. The supporting component with 200 pigs will have a considerable multiplier effect due to the following facts: when the supported pigs will produce for the first time, each one will give one piglet to her neighbor and keep the remaining, when each pig given to second individual will also produce for the first time, they can have eight or more piglets. Each participant will give one piglet to her neighbor and keep the remaining to raise or sell. When each pig which was given to a second individual produces for the first time, she will do the same for someone else in their community and so on.

The entire project will be successful and sustainable in terms of productivity and profitability due to the following calculations: In terms of quantity produced, each female pig gives birth to 8 or more piglets. A female pig can give birth two times per year but for the first year, it will produce once. Thus $50 \text{ female pigs} \times 8 \text{ piglets each} \times 1 \text{ birth} = 400 \text{ pigs}$ for the first year. In terms of income, As a pig of approximately 4 months can cost \$76; the annual income projection will be $400 \text{ pigs} \times \$76 = \$30,400$. When withdrawing the costs of expenses (cost of pigs, feeding cost, Treatment cost, veterinary services) equals to **\$13,735** ; the profit will be **\$16,665** for the first year of our project.

For wide pig distribution to be successful we will work together with local authorities to ensure sustainability of our proposed plan, we will create a framework/structure with local leaders since we worked with them in project feasibility study. Our beneficiaries are the ones who expressed their needs and proposed the possible solution to solve them.

D. Team

Aspire Rwanda's project Manager will lead and implement the project with the assistance of trainers based on education discussed in the project components. He will also complete the tasks of Identifying participants, organizing the pre and post surveys for evaluation, reporting of survey result, conducting follow-ups (with some participants including home visits), producing quarterly reports to Funders on the project implementation and results. Aspire's Veterinary will provide farming education skills to farmers as well as treatment of the pigs when required. He will also follow up pig productivity during the first 6 months following project implementation.

The trainers will only provide their knowledge and preparing a report at the end of each subject and this will help Aspire's Project Manager to look at what to improve for the next time.

E. Project Expenses Budget

.Salaries and Benefits: **\$3,500**

.Administrative Expenses: **\$5,600**

.Training expenses: **\$10,400**

.Cost of pig supported and other needs: **\$30,500**

.Total Expenses : \$50,000

F. Overall Expected Outcomes

Results	Description	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of verification	Risks and Assumptions
Outcome	Targeted women demonstrate improved knowledge and the ability to take action in topics covered and are economically empowered leading to sustainable development.	1.Number of women who demonstrate improved knowledge comparing the baseline. 2.Number of women who show their monthly income or assets raised compared to starting time.	0	200 women	1.Attendance list . 2.Base-line and end-line survey 3.Testimonies	1.Women will attend all the training sessions 2.Women will be knowledgeable in all the topics but with some resistances to practice some of them. 3.Women will properly use the profit gain for own and community development.

Peace RUZAGE

CEO/Aspire Rwanda