



NETWORK OF WOMEN
IN AGRIBUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT
NoWAD

Empowerment of youth in Rubirizi district - Feed the Egg initiative

Background

Rubirizi district, formally known as Bunyarugugu County was carved out of Bushenyi in July 2010 and is found in the Western Uganda, Ankole Sub-region. According to a census done in 2016-07-01 the population has grown to 133,500 from 129,149 in 2014 a growth of 3% over the 2 years.

The people of Rubirizi district partake in varied economic activities including Agriculture, trade and commerce, stone quarrying, transport and sand mining. However 70 % of the local revenue is got from tourist activities. 50% of Queen Elizabeth National Park lies in Rubirizi district, there are over 50 Crater lakes that dot the terrain and the district is bordered by 3 central forest reserves protected by the National Forestry Authority (NFA).

Agriculture is the main alternative for Rural Women, and it should come with better access to land and resources for the prevention, adaptation and mitigation of climate change, combined with rural women learning how to deal with cultural resistance and adapting to various manifestations of this phenomenon. Realizing the importance of rural women in agriculture is an important aspect of gender relations.

Target:

School going children in 1 primary school in Uganda (Western Uganda)

Duration of the Project:

The project will be implemented over a period of 18 months.

Problem Statement

The poverty levels in Rubirizi are high due to high population growth rate; land scarcity, food insecurity, lack of access to finance further impedes productivity. This according to a study carried on in South Western Uganda and this is seen in the nutritional statistics of 2014 for children under the age of five i.e. Meal frequency 56.9%, Dietary diversity 53.3%, Iron rich/ fortified 41.6%, Nutrition minimum acceptable diet 24.5%. Child stunting is attributed to poor feeding, poor health, poor sanitation and low income.

It is with this background that NoWAD intends to enrich the lives of families' through empowering school going children in Rubirizi District through Feed the Egg project.

The proposed project – Feed the Egg (FTE)

This is a grassroots based initiative focusing on nutrition, income generation, children nurturing, primary education completion, girl child empowerment and enhancing parents' involvement in the education of the children. FTE initiative will involve starting up a project by focusing on the child (both boys- 40% and girls- 60%). The children will be given start-up capital in form of seedlings and/or animals that will be able to multiply or reproduce respectively. This initiative will be introduced in primary school P1- P3 in particular. The reason behind this is to be able to monitor the impact of the project on the child by primary seven.

This initiative has been piloted in Mugombwa, Primary school Kyabakara Sub County where 20 children received chicks from NOWAD and there has been a positive change on their livelihoods. FTE initiative Rubirizi, is expected to have a nutritional impact where the children can eat eggs considering the fact that Rubirizi district is rated with high malnutrition in the country.

Secondly, children should be able to generate income from the sale of hens once they start reproducing. And income generated can be used to supplement for their scholastic and other requirements for their education needs. It is also anticipated that, the project will have the capacity to groom children into responsible and goal oriented adults and empower the girl child.

Above all, engaging in poultry, will focus these children's free time to positive activities, learn to care for life, have objectives, and set precedence for future economic independence at an early age. Beneficiaries will further be organized into clubs, with patrons, learn from each other and parents will be trained to ably support their children.

In addition to the above, the project will have a positive impact on the current high rates of school dropout attributed to poverty as the beneficiaries will be able to concentrate in class especially after fulfilling basic school requirements which are not provided by parents and government.

Finally, we have incorporated affirmative action for purposes of gender mainstreaming. The girls will have 60 percent share while boys will take 40% mainly because the percentage of girls who complete Primary education is lower compared to boys. A report by Education policy and Data Centre 2014 showed that the primary school non participation ratio was 14% boy and 13% girls those aged between 6-12 years. But when we go to secondary 13-18, the disparity had tipped drastically putting the girl none participant at 30% as opposed to the boy at 21% (Education Policy and Data Centre, 2014). In fact this situation cuts across all education levels in Rubirizi district. In addition, girls experience more economic challenges and needs at earlier age than boys.

Sustainability Plan

The FTE project is also aimed at creating a Pay it Forward (PIF) Ripple effect in the community because each recipient family for the pilot will for 2 years be mandated to also give out other vulnerable children. This is a cycle that each recipient family shall be mandated to pay forward as long for the duration of the projects which is currently 5 to 10 years.

In addition our team of experienced poultry farmers will train benefitting families in the use of natural medicines in the management and prevention of poultry diseases. This will weaver the burden of buying inorganic conventional medicines which are expensive and unlikely that such poor vulnerable families would afford.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring shall be done on a quarterly basis for the FTE project in Rubirizi District because it is important that the recipient families understand the importance of continuity of the project. While the recipients shall not be paying for the chicken, the PIF initiative that will be born out of the FTE project will instill in the community the values of accountability and work ethics. In addition, parents of recipient children will sign simple support agreements, and trained to support these young children to carry on their responsibilities effectively. For collaboration purposes, the local councils will partake in the project to promote transparency, while the technical persons like the veterinary officers at sub county level will be involved in the support team.

Expected outputs

- Building life skills of school going children
- Reduction of the poverty gap.
- 200 school children receiving life skills.
- Improving school attendance and completion at least 80% of benefiting students
- Introducing a working culture in the community.
- Reduction in girl child early marriages by 80%
- The multiplier effect will help the project realize 600 children under this project by end of 5 years.
- Improve parent child relationship and involvement in the education of their children.
- Improving nutritional levels through increase in dietary diversity.

About the organization

Network of Women in Agribusiness and Development (NoWAD) is a social enterprise founded and registered in Uganda with the aim of empowering women and children as agents of positive change in development. The organization puts emphasis into restoring a self-supporting livelihood both economically and mentally to women and children who have been stricken with hardship due to poverty and aid dependence.

Budget

The total budget required to implement this project in two primary schools amounts to US \$ 800