



IDEAS For Us Rwanda Community Garden Proposal

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Problem Introduction

The Bushoki sector, located within the Rulindo District of Rwanda's Northern Province, had an estimated population of 19,970 as of the national 2021 census. Children under the age of 18 comprise approximately 39 percent of the population. This area has been identified as a food desert, and many residents struggle with food insecurity. The United Nations World Food Programme estimates that this affects nearly 20 percent of residents nationwide, and as much as 35 percent of children experience stunted growth as a result of nutritional deficits. In many rural regions of Rwanda, human capital may be drawn thin as families must travel to obtain fresh food and water. This represents a significant expenditure of time and resources for individuals who may also be pursuing education and economic activity of some form. This overextension of family resources is exacerbated by the existence of food deserts, in which communities lack healthy nutritional options.

Solution

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has reported that its own community garden initiatives in Rwanda, which began in the early 2000s, contributed to a wide range of benefits for local communities. Not only did nutrition improve, but schools also reported higher attendance, and many residents saw increased incomes through the sustenance of garden initiatives. A sufficiently funded community garden program, accompanied by education on nutritional and agricultural practices, would provide key incentives for rural communities to sustain local food sources rather than depend upon overextended supply chains.

At the Bushoki Community Centre, IDEAS For Us will undertake the establishment of a community garden which will host fruits and vegetables, as well as ornamental plants. The garden will be supported by IDEAS For Us's own volunteer team, as well as a network of specialists mobilized through the organization's 'IDEAS Hive' community outreach events. Schools will also be targeted as key project partners in order to ensure that the garden receives appropriate ongoing care.

Project Objectives and Goals

Goal 1: Establish a community garden at the Bushoki Community Centre in Rulindo District.

Objective 1a: Promote food security by creating a local and community-owned source of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Objective 1b: Contribute a positive ecological footprint by reducing water runoff and creating habitats for pollinators and other animal species.

Goal 2: Educate communities on matters of personal nutrition and sustainability.

Objective 2a: Improve dietary habits through the consumption of locally-grown fruits and vegetables.

Objective 2b: Provide education for schools and youth-centered groups on the proper and sustainable care of various food-bearing and ornamental plant species.

Goal 3: Host an IDEAS Hive event to emphasize community ownership and engage a wide variety of stakeholders.

Objective 3a: Involve schools and other community groups in implementation and ongoing maintenance.

Outcomes

This project would contribute to the elimination of hunger and nutritional deficits through the local production of food crops. The establishment and ongoing maintenance of the community garden will also provide an economic stimulus by educating young students and other community members on agricultural and nutritional practices, equipping them with core transferable skills.

Budget Breakdown:

Item description	Unit cost in USD	Quantity	Total Cost in USD
Seedlings and Supplies	2	1000	\$2,000
Fertilizers/ Soil/ Materials	3	400	\$1,200
Teaching materials(books,pens,banner,hire (Projector,camera), electricity)			\$600
Transport	30	5	\$150
Total			\$3,950