



**Sheep Farming, Project by Justyinn Nkunzimana
CorpsAfrica/Rwanda Volunteer Group 4**

District: Rutsiro

Village/Community: Birambo Village, Muyira Sector, Rutsiro district in the Western Province

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/sKkPoSSBhEtaYWN8>

Community Partner Organization: Abadahigwa

Community Counterpart: Bagiriwabo Simeon is a resident of Birambo village. He completed his secondary school education and he is a head of health workers in cell. Most importantly, Simeon is honest and has the trust of the entire community. He has leadership skills obtained from serving as a Social Economic Development Officer at the cell level. He has attended different trainings on homegrown solutions, and he is now the president of the local cooperative, Abahetsi.

Timeline: This project will begin in May 2020. It's date of completion is June 2020

Project Summary

After a group mapping exercise, the community presented many ideas however, most stressed how they could solve the serious problem of the infertile soil while simultaneously searching for small-scale farming that creates income. The plan was taken by centered group conversations and a presentation of numerous suggestions. The groups all settled on sheep farming as a project for the following reasons:

1. It matches the government policy of poverty reduction in Rwanda.
2. It will increase members' income.
3. It will boost living standards of many households in Birambo village.
4. Sheep's waste will produce manure needed in the farms.

The entire community association agreed that sheep farming will both generate financial income and increase health status for poor families through fertilizing cultivated land, making fertilized kitchen gardens and selling adult sheep in local markets for meat as well as lambs to others who want to practice sheep farming.

Description of the community:

Birambo village is located in Muyira cell within Manihira sector & Rutsiro district, in the Western Province of Rwanda. It is thirty-five kilometers away from the main road and is in a very remote area of the Rutsiro District. Because of its' geographical location it is very hard for many organizations to work in this area. Agriculture is the backbone of the region since above

97% of the community engages in agricultural activities. It is mountainous and cold, with infertile soil and very heavy rainfall throughout the year. Therefore, the rain sometimes causes erosion that terribly washes away the top layer fertile soil thus leading to poor harvests.

Birambo Village's community organization is well organized. And the Muyira Cell has good infrastructure for growth such as schools, health centers, electricity and tap water. Most community members still have a weak financial status as a result of poor income generating economic activities. Birambo community is widely known to have less fertile soil especially for diverse crops that are recognized to be protein-rich. Some of the crops mostly grow in this region include Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes which are highly consumed. Maize is also harvested, but its' production is still low.

Sheep farming will contribute to the production of manure, which protects the soil and strengthens fertility. This will encourage community members to diversify crops. All members of the community are keen to see this project come to life because they believe it has a clear and rapid impact on their lives.

Birambo village is located in a remote area, almost all community members (both men and women) engage in daily agricultural activities. Both men and woman do their farming activities until the evening and then head home. Some men visit the bar while the women and children prepare dinner. The children usually go to school during the day but when they are at home they are typically engaged in feeding and looking after domestic animals.

How did the project come about?

The idea of the Sheep farming project in the Abadahigwa association was initiated and supported by the community members. They all want a solution to their infertile soil as well as income to support their families. Their meetings and discussions were facilitated by a CorpsAfrica Volunteer, using asset-based community development and human-design approaches. Members of the community chose a project that will support their daily animal and crop farming. The community members managed to discuss what assets they currently have, their problems and how they can work together to come out of poverty. They came up with many projects, but decided that sheep farming would have a positive impact on their lives and would be the easiest and quickest project they could realistically build from the ground up. Not only will it help them be financially stable, it will also generate their farms' manure. In turn, the long-term effects that this project will have on the community include decreasing malnutrition because of healthier soil leading to healthier crops and more income to provide basic needs for families.

How is the local community engaged?

Birambo village is situated in a remote area where most of the community members are engaged in daily agriculture activities, but they live in extreme poverty. As part of its strategy for growth, the government has developed different policies for poverty reduction. This community is interested in developing themselves because they started saving of 500 rwf every week in order to contribute to their self-development.

The village's geographical location makes it a particularly difficult area to have domestic animals, thus the reason why the community chose sheep farming as a project. Sheep are animals that are resilient, easy to care for, and can survive to that climate. The community finds this project as a cornerstone of poverty reduction and food security under the Rwandan policy and investment plan for small-scale animal industries.

One of the goals of sheep farming is to increase household incomes and bring about rural economic change through the empowerment of poor households. Sheep have several benefits appropriate for rural people and are one of the best ways to come out of poverty. Sheep farming requires small investments in building and machinery. Sheep manure is widely used as a fertilizer in agriculture, and domestic markets are in good demand. All of these considerations were strong reasons why the members of the community chose this project.

What will sustainability look like for this project?

The sustainability plan of this project is mainly under three categories:

1. The local authorities on this project have agreed on continuous follow-up, represented by the cell leader responsible for social and community growth and the sector vet-technician. The project leader will always submit a weekly report to local leaders, thus ensuring accountability and local ownership.
2. The beneficiaries' ownership because of the benefits they get from the project such as manure, lambs and adult sheep to sell.
3. The Project Leader will be conducting continuous project evaluation to assess how well the project is managed.

How will success be measured for this project?

Increasing financial status (means): increasing economic inputs in two ways:

1. Selling lambs: sheep are very productive and easy to maintain. Within six months, a sheep produces a lamb. A lamb costs approximately 25,000 Rwf.
2. Sheep manure is widely used as fertilizer in agriculture and there is strong demand from domestic markets. Hence, there is always a good price for sheep manure and therefore, a good source of income.

Improving the health status of community members: The project envisions that 92% of children will be cured of malnutrition within one-year since poor families will be encouraged to use sheep manure to fertilize their kitchen gardens which include vegetables to feed their children. Families will also be able to pay for the health insurance. Food will also be made available to households through the income generated from this project.

Increasing their harvests: Agricultural activities in this region require fertilizer on cultivated land. Therefore, the use of manure will result in greater harvests. A goal of this project is that within 1 year, above 90% of the members of the community that raise sheep will be less

impoverished as a result of this project. Since women and children in rural areas are most affected by poverty and malnutrition, they are the first to benefit from sheep farming.

Note: All the indicators will be measured and closely monitored by local leaders, project leader and CorpsAfrica volunteer

What will be the impact of the project be?

The benefits of sheep farming range from increasing the financial status to combating malnutrition and increasing harvest for the members of the community. This project will generate financial income and enhance the health of poor families by fertilizing their lands, fortifying their kitchen gardens and selling grown-up sheep for meat and lambs to others who want to rear sheep. The Birambo village has initiated and fully supported the idea of a sheep farming project which reflects community farming activities. This will influence not only the immediate beneficiaries, but the whole village as the purchasing power increases dramatically. Improving the living standards for community members would help to address a multitude of issues facing community members. It will also promote the access to capital from community members so that they can start up other small projects that generate income and help reduce poverty.

Exchange Rate	1 USD =	950										
		Unit Cost		Total Cost	Grant Request		Community Cash Contribution			Community In Kind Contribution		
Line item description	Category	Local currency	Quantity	Local currency	Local currency	USD	Local currency	USD	Expected Source of Community Cash Contribution	Local currency	USD	Describe Community In Kind Contribution
<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>user selects below</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>locked formula</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>locked formula</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>locked formula</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>	<i>locked formula</i>	<i>user inputs below</i>

trees	Materials/Supplies	3000.00	60	18000.00	0.00	\$0.00	18000.00	\$189.47		18000.00	\$189.47	Own Properties
timbers	Materials/Supplies	3000.00	60	18000.00	0.00	\$0.00	90000.00	\$94.74		90000.00	\$94.74	Own Properties
ironsheets	Equipment	6000.00	60	36000.00	0.00	\$0.00	33000.00	\$34.74	Community Saving		\$0.00	
nails	Equipment	1500.00	60	9000.00	0.00	\$0.00	90000.00	\$94.74	Community Saving		\$0.00	
labors	Labor	3000.00	60	18000.00	0.00	\$0.00	18000.00	\$189.47		18000.00	\$189.47	Own Properties
medications	Labor	1000.00	60	6000.00	600.00	\$63.16		\$0.00			\$0.00	
vet-technician	Travel/Per Diem/Food/Lodging	5000.00	5	2500.00	250.00	\$26.32		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Transport	Other	3000.00	60	18000.00	120.00	\$12.63		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Sheep	Other	45000.00	60	27000.00	270.00	\$2,842.11		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Land	Land/Venue Rental	15000.00	60	90000.00	0.00	\$0.00	90000.00	\$947.37		90000.00	\$947.37	Own Properties
Administrative fees	Other	342000.00	1	342000.00	342.00	\$36.00		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Miscellaneous expenses	Other	40000.00	1	40000.00	400.00	\$42.11		\$0.00			\$0.00	
Summary Totals				523700.00	328700.00	\$3,460.00	1473000.00	\$1,550.53		1350000.00	\$1,421.05	