



SHEEP FARMING PROJECT
Phoibe Uwineza
CorpsAfrica/Rwanda Volunteer Group 4

District: Rutsiro

Village: Gitwe Village, Haniro Cell

Community Partner Organization: JYAMBERE GITWE (Go Ahead Gitwe in development)

Community Counterpart Name and bio: MUKAMUSONI Josephine is a native and resident of Gitwe Village in Haniro cell within the Manihira Sector. She completed her primary school education in 1981. In 1989 she was elected to be the president of a small association called Abahuzambaraga (Let's unite our strength). More recently, she has attended different trainings at Rutsiro District in cooperative management and she has been governing different cooperatives and associations called Dusasirane & Compassion and Ingoboka. She has attended a training on how to prepare a balanced diet to fight malnutrition issues and she has also learned how to teach local women about the First One Thousand Days program which emphasizes the importance of good health and nutrition during pregnancy and the first two years of life. She has helped the women and children in her community to improve their health at RUTSIRO Urgent Healthcare Center. Now, she is a Trainer on sector-level, after being trained by the Ministry of Agriculture in agri-business project management, monitoring, and evaluation at the level of Rutsiro District. She has also received training on how to create a new farming cooperative association

Project timeline:

This project will begin as soon as funds are available. Its date of completion is November 2020, two months from its starting date.

Project Summary:

The people of Jyambere Gitwe, in the community where I am working as a Corps Africa Volunteer, have decided on a project of Sheep Farming. The project was selected as a priority need by farmers in the village after they organized themselves into a group to brainstorm and identify important issues in their community. Two of these issues are malnutrition, which has been persisted despite so many government initiatives, and infertile soil which causes poor and insufficient crop yields and contributes to malnutrition.

Sheep farming is widely known to be practiced in cold regions which exactly suits Gitwe Village's climate due to the fact that this region experiences rainfall all year along and relatively cold temperatures. Furthermore, this community prefers sheep rearing as part of the culture and it is attractive to them as an off-farm activity. This is supported by the ability of sheep to resist diseases, their short intervals of reproduction, and their ability to feed on a large variety of

grasses which reduces the stress of looking for feed. Sheep reproduce two times a year and produce as many of 2 kids once, producing 4 kids a year. Another interesting reason they have chosen this project is that in this community sheep meat is preferred over other types of meats and therefore attracts many buyers. Since the community has agreed to make a sheep shelter which will increase manure stock and allow the community to have access to organic fertilizer hence increasing yields, having fertilized kitchen garden and selling manure as well as selling kids and adult sheep are additional benefits of this project.

Describe the community:

Gitwe village has 198 households. Women make up 85% of the population and men make up 15%. The village is located in the Western Province, Rutsiro District, Manihira Sector, and Haniro Cell. It is a mountainous region with infertile soil and very heavy rainfall which causes landslides. Therefore, the rain plays a major role in soil erosion which washes away good soil. A community in this region needs manure to get a good harvest.

Gitwe village is a community that depends mostly on potato farming, livestock farming, and business in small shops as economic activities. Men engage in construction work or feed their livestock while women are busy with agricultural activities (farming Irish potatoes wheat, peas, and maize). A larger number of community members in the Jyambere Gitwe Association have low financial security and struggle to access food. The little food they grow is often consumed in the farmers' households leaving almost nothing for sale. People in this community have one meal per day. Due to this problem, other issues emerge like an increase of students dropping out of school as children are unable to get food at home regularly.

The Gitwe village members are members of the community that work hard but are faced with severe poverty and malnutrition. The Sheep Farming project was suggested by organized community members as a solution to increase the production of agriculture practices by fertilizing their land and kitchen gardens and as a means to increase income generation. They depend mostly on Irish potato farming, livestock farming, and subsistence agriculture as economic activities. A typical day for a Gitwe village community member begins at 5am. In general, children go to school, men engage in construction, road work or feed their livestock, and women participate in farming (Irish potatoes, wheat, peas and maize). Afterwards, women and children complete unpaid labor at home – caring for household animals, feeding the family, and cleaning their homes in the late afternoon while men frequent local bars. Most of the community goes to church and the region has three market days during the week. Women and children make up over 85% of this community.

How did this project come about?

The process of deciding on this project was carried out by all the community members, local leaders, and opinion leaders, and facilitated by the Corps Africa Volunteer. After meetings and discussions using asset-based community development and human centered design approaches, members of the community chose a project that will support their daily animal and crop farming. They carried out a community mapping exercise where peoples participate in making a map of their village. Most of the community members found that the community has a problem of poverty and food insecurity where they are not able to afford basic needs like payment for their health insurance, sending their children to school, and purchasing clothes. In the end, they

decided on a sheep farming project because it addressed many of the issues the community is facing.

How does the project engage the community and build on local assets?

This project will build upon local efforts of agriculture and economic development. Due to the issues of infertile soil the community is supportive of this project and eager for the manure that will be produced. The project will also benefit the current market for sheep meat, the ultimate goal of this sheep farming project is to increase household incomes and bring about rural economic change through the empowerment of poor household

How is this project sustainable?

The sustainability of the Sheep Farming project started from day one when the community members came together during their many discussions. building a sense of ownership among the members. Empowering the community through capacity building, the Corps Africa volunteer has built on the culture of teamwork amongst the community using Corps Africa approaches (Asset Based Community Development and Human-Centered Design). This has instilled the spirit of sustainability in the members and as a result, they will work together to make sure their projects flourish since there will not be individual work.

The community members have been trained to manage the project and five years from now this project will have expanded to all the needy members in the community. The beneficiaries will be taken through study tours to learn from others and 20 will be trained with specialized skills focused on best practices for sheep farming as well as financial responsibility and small business ownership to keep building the capacity of others. The community members have also started a saving scheme from which the collected money will be used to sustain the activities of the project for the next five years.

As a CorpsAfrica Volunteer, I have strong cooperation with the organization's representative committee of six persons from which each has defined duties. The committee will also keep an eye on the project which will make the project sustainable. The president and general secretary have agreed to give me weekly reports as long as I am here as a facilitator, but we have a Project Leader who will continue to coordinate all activities for the Sheep Farming project after I leave. She works together with the committee and has responsibilities designed to help this project continue and sustain for a long time.

Local leaders, who are responsible for the wellbeing of their communities, are aware of this project. They can provide a consultant veterinary from the Manihira Sector office to follow up on the well-being of the sheep distributed for this project. Local leaders will make sure this project is sustained and Project Leaders are encouraged to submit a weekly report to local leaders on the project's progress. The community is responsive to their authorities and they work hard to make sure they are in their good graces. The supervision of the local government will encourage them to make this project last for a long time.

How will success be measured for this project?

Improved standards of living of community members. Due to the increased crop yields that will result from the sheep manure, this project will provide a great reduction in rates of malnutrition within one year. This project of Sheep Farming will help families to get enough food in their home, increasing the average number of meals per person from one meal per day to two meals per day. They will have access to satisfying food for their families, improving access to basic needs and household health. Therefore this project will reduce malnutrition issues that are rampant in Gitwe Village.

Increased crop/food harvests: As most of the community members are farmers, the agricultural activities in this region require fertilizers on cultivated land, so the use of manure from the sheep project will result in greater harvests. By using sheep manure for fertilized lands and kitchen gardens, community members expect to increase their vegetable and crop yield (potatoes, maize, wheat, peas, and other vegetables) by 40%. With this increased crop yield project beneficiaries will also be able to earn more profit in the market from any surplus crops.

Reduced household poverty levels: Increasing harvest for the members of the community will improve their welfare and their family's health will improve. This project will improve the health of poor families by fertilizing their lands and increasing their financial status. It will generate financial income for them to start other small businesses and allow them to move from a low level of living up to a higher level.

What will be the impact of the project be?

The Jyambere Gitwe association has initiated and fully supports the idea of a sheep farming project because it reflects the community's farming activities. The impacts of this sheep farming project range from increasing harvests to improving financial security and health in the community. This project will improve the health of poor families by fertilizing their lands, fortifying their kitchen gardens and selling sheep for meat and lambs to others who want to rear sheep. Increasing the financial status of many community members will help to combat malnutrition. This project will also generate financial income for starting other small businesses.

This project will have a great impact on the lives of women and children as it is going to improve the standards of living in their families. This sheep project will allow them to contribute to their families' wellbeing and development as it will provide enough money for women who usually didn't get paid for the hard agricultural work they do. This project will have a positive impact on the life of women and children Because Jyambere Gitwe association is 80% women. As women take on a greater role in their families' financial security they will be able to provide for their families' basic needs and will feel empowered to make positive change in their community.

Exchange Rate		1 USD =	950										
Line item description	Category	Unit Cost		Total Cost	Grant Request		Community Cash Contribution			Community In Kind Contribution			
		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 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>	
Sheep	Other	4500.00	75	3375000.00	3375000.00	\$3,550.263		\$0.00			\$0.00		
Vaccination	Other	1000.00	75	7500.00	7500.00	\$78.95		\$0.00			\$0.00		
vet-technician	Travel/Per Diem/Food/Lodging	1000.00	75	7500.00	7500.00	\$78.95		\$0.00			\$0.00		
Transportation	Other	3000.00	75	225000.00	225000.00	\$236.84		\$0.00			\$0.00		
Trees	Materials/Supplies	1000.00	75	7500.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		75000.00	\$78.95	Own properties	
Timber	Materials/Supplies	3000.00	75	225000.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		225000.00	\$236.84	Own properties	
Iron sheet	Equipment	7000.00	75	525000.00		\$0.00	525000.00	\$552.63	Community Saving		\$0.00		
Nails	Equipment	3000.00	75	225000.00		\$0.00	225000.00	\$236.84	Community Saving		\$0.00		
Labors	Labor	4000.00	75	300000.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		300000.00	\$315.79	personal contribution	
land	Land/Venue Rental	1000.00	75	7500.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00		750000	\$789.47	own land	
administration fees	Other	342000.00	1	342000.00	342000.00	\$360.00		\$0.00			\$0.00		
Miscellaneous Expense	Other	4000.00	1	4000.00	4000.00	\$42.11		\$0.00			\$0.00		
Summary Totals				690700.00	413200.00	\$4,349.47	750000.00	\$789.47		1350000.00	\$1,421.05		

