

# RURAL GIRL WOMAN CHALLENGE FOUNDATION UGANDA

(RUGWOCFU)



## PROJECT PROPOSAL

A Proposal for **Funding** to Support “**Raising the Girl Child and Rural Woman (RAGICRUWO)**”, an Initiative by Rural Girl Woman Challenge Foundation Uganda

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**TARGET AREA: RUHAMA COUNTY**

**PROJECT DURATION: 3 YEARS**



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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Improper education of the girl-child and women characterize low self-esteem, lack of confidence, insecurity and national development. The reasons for girl-child and women education as well as empowerment for sustainable health and development is aimed to be investigated. Critical issues in girl-child education such as access to education, drop out from school by a female child and quality of education experience which endanger the girl-child or women have been discussed in this proposal. Educating and empowering of female children and women coupled with proffered solutions such as building of good mentoring as well as networking groups, sponsorships and proper training would not only apparently contribute towards embracing gender equality, increasing the workforces, particularly, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workforce but also improve emotional, economic, mental, physical, political, religion and social experiences. Thus, yielding a healthy nation, high quality leadership, reduced rate of dependence and increased nation's workforce for sustainable development.

**'RAGICRUWO** is a project that seeks to empower teenage girls and women in rural communities and schools in Ruhama, Ntungamo district through learning, development actions and engaging them through a nine months skill acquiring program that will engage, empower and transform them to be bold for positive change.

Adolescence is a critical period in a girl's life, when significant physical, emotional and social changes shape her future. In too many parts of Uganda, adolescence is the most precious time for girls. A quarter of a billion girls worldwide live in poverty. Most girls in some developing countries, Uganda in particular marry before 19 and some as early as 15. Every year, millions of girls undergo female genital mutilation/cutting. Many more live in conflict settings that increase the risk of gender based violence. Many girls and women continue to be infected with HIV/AIDS and too few girls and women have the education or skills they need to fully participate in the economies of their communities and the country at large.

While adolescence is a time for great vulnerability for girls, it is also an ideal point to leverage development and diplomacy efforts. It is an opportunity to disrupt poverty from becoming a permanent condition that is passed from one generation to the next. A pivotal question for an adolescent girl is whether she stays in school. If she drops out of school prematurely, she faces an increased risk of early marriage, early pregnancy, HIV infection and maternal morbidities. She is also likely to be unskilled, have less earning power and be less able to participate meaningfully in society. However, if she remains in school, she is more likely to marry later, have fewer and healthier children and earn an income that she will invest into her family and community. To break the cycle of poverty and HIV/Aids illiteracy, our efforts must reach girls before they arrive at this intersection of adolescence and follow them until they complete their education. This investment is not just an investment in girls, but in their families and communities.

**RAGICRUWO** is therefore a 3Years' planned program for teenage girls and women in secondary schools and communities of Ruhama, with a concerted effort to address the challenges faced by adolescent girls and rural women, to safeguard their rights and to promote their participation in



their societies and communities. Rural Girl Woman Challenge Foundation Uganda (project organizer) believes that the progress of this population will be an essential determinant of our success as a nation (Uganda) in achieving the goals set out for the 2021 Nation Agenda. Today's epidemic of undereducated and impoverished girls is tomorrow's crisis of instability and conflict, health, hunger and avoidable child deaths. The goal of Rural Girl Woman Challenge Foundation under this strategy is to ensure teenage girls and rural women are educated, healthy, economically and socially empowered, and free from violence and discrimination, thereby promoting national development, security and prosperity. Our efforts aim to enhance their access to quality education, to reduce their risk of child, early, and forced marriage; to reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDs, gender based-violence, including harmful norms and practices such as female genital mutilation, and to provide them with tools necessary to fully participate in their societies, claim their rights, and make informed decisions about their lives.

## **2.0. RURAL GIRL WOMAN CHALLENGE FOUNDATION UGANDA**

### **2.1. BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION**

**RURAL GIRL WOMAN CHALLENGE FOUNDATION UGANDA**, herein referred to as (RUGWOCFU) registered in 2018 is a women-led nonprofit organization, based in Ntungamo district in Uganda, dedicated to informing, imparting and empowering Ugandan Girls and women to be agents of change in their communities.

RUGWOCFU catalogs and helps young people examine what factors limit their potential for independence, achievement, leadership and meaningful contribution to nation building and national development.

RUGWOCFU's programs not only give voice to the girls and women, it provides the nation with insights into their unique and universal challenges attributed to girl child and women neglect.

Tackling issues like decision making, leadership, unemployment/entrepreneurship, crime, gender inequality, RUGWOCFU bravely serves up the societal and political norms that oppress and limit Uganda youths and women, empowers them to break the culture of silence, unite, challenge the status quo, move beyond barriers and create solutions.

RUGWOCFU specializes in community collaboration which supports the capacity building of youths. Our programs utilize a strength and change-centered approach which draws upon community resource to meet the needs of families, youths, women and children.

## **3. GOVERNANCE**

The organization has a managing board of eleven members who decide on major administrative matters and oversee major developments and guide its operations. There is a management



committee consisting department heads and chaired by an Executive Director to deal with and execute day-to-day administrative and managerial matters. The Director, responsible to the Board of Directors, is entrusted with the main task of overseeing and implementing decisions passed by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director also manages the day-to-day activities and operations of the organization. The organization has five major departments, namely, Administration, Finance, Program, Monitoring and Evaluation and Public Relations. Each department has three to five sections.

#### **4. VISION**

**RUGWOCFU** envision a Uganda where girls and women are informed, empowered and can make a difference no matter where they sit on the socio-economic scale-a Uganda where girls and women are freely given the opportunity to take part in decision making, state leadership and nation building.

#### **5. MISSION**

RUGWOCFU believes young people have unique insights, experiences and recommendations that can make decision making more effective. Our mission is therefore to develop the abilities of young people, create and access opportunities that improve their lives and communities and also ensure that young people are influencing policy decisions that affect their lives and help to realize their rights.

#### **6. OBJECTIVES**

1. To Mobilize and educate communities to change harmful norms and practices against girls and women.
2. To create awareness and Strengthen girls' right/access to education, nutrition, and legal rights, medical care and protection from discrimination, violence against women and early girl child marriage.
3. To empower a total of about 200 teenage girls and 100 women in local communities in Ruhama County with information, skills, services and support.
4. To develop the abilities of young girls, create and access opportunities that improve their lives and communities and also ensure that young people are influencing policy decisions that affect their lives and help to realize their rights.



## **7.0. ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION**

### **7.1. Health Program**

This program was created in 2018, with the objective to reduce the burden of HIV/AIDS infection among the girls and women by supporting the role of young people and local health systems in the **prevention** and management of the said disease and general health development. This is done through health workshops and capacity building trainings organized in community centers, churches, and schools which are easily accessed by youths. This program works under two key components; Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) and HIV/AIDS. RUGWOCFU will sustain partnerships with health institutions in Ruhama County and the neighboring communities. With these partnerships, RUGWOCFU is able to successfully run the health program.

### **7.2. Leadership Development**

The Leadership Development Program seeks to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding girls and women need to become effective leaders within culturally diverse communities. From 2018 according to the 2019-2021 strategic plan, RUGWOCFU will organize a leadership summit every year in a selected institution in Ruhama County. This will be with the objective to value and promote learning, collaboration, inclusivity, diversity, openness, creativity, flexibility, innovation and harmony among young people in Ntungamo District.

### **7.3. Justice and Human Rights/Gender**

RUGWOCFU will establish partnerships with center for constitutional governance (CCG), Africa Freedom of information center (AFIC) and a police station in Ntungamo District. With these partnerships RUGWOCFU is able to promote human rights awareness through school visits, community works and radio programs which help young people and women access information about how to seek justice when oppressed. With this program, RUGWOCFU also promotes crime prevention among young people-girls and women, and improve the effectiveness of the justice system in the rehabilitation and restoration of young offenders and inculcate the respect for human rights and promote human rights principles as the basis for peace and development.

### **7.4. Livelihoods**

RUGWOCFU will support and economically empowers unemployed girls and women between the ages of 18 to 35, including particularly vulnerable groups and people with disabilities. Through organized training sessions in rural areas on support, vocational, business management and life-training skills. Practical resource projects in training 50 teenage mothers on accessing practical self-sustaining skills to help better their lives and the lives of their children is yet to



commence in Ruhama County, organized and fully sponsored by RUGWOFCU. RUGWOFCU also will organizes community trainings on local food processing skills for girls and women in rural areas such as making of pastries and yogurt, production of local soap and detergent, cloth dying, poultry keeping, and piggery etc. With all of these, girls and women can be productive and self-sustainable and can also be able to raise funds to sponsor themselves in school where their families are unable.

### **7.5. Community Engagement**

RUGWOFCU will mobilize and educate communities to change harmful norms and practices. The environment around teenage girls plays a key role in their ability to thrive. Girls who live in disempowering environments may not have access to programs and resources, and even when they are available, they may be beyond girls' reach due to structural or cultural barriers or household dynamics that restrict their access to such services and support. RUGWOFCU will therefore create community awareness programs on local radios, television and reach out events such a peace walks, sporting games, and community clean up campaigns with the participating schools as the girls' progress in their various skills acquisition. This will be most effective as it will engage the whole communities, including other teenage girls who may be out of school, parents, community leaders and most especially teenage boys who will now have the opportunity to learn about the world of opportunities available to girls and the need to regard them as partners rather than subordinates. These reach out campaigns will be carried with such style as to draw in traditional and religious leaders and other members of the community with influence such as political leaders, civil society organizations, mothers' groups and the parent teacher associations.

### **7.6. Strengthen policy and legal frame works and accountability.**

Many legal frameworks around Uganda do not protect teenage girls and women from violence and discrimination, either because they discriminate against girls and women or because anti-discrimination provisions are inadequately enforced. Girls and women face a myriad of obstacles to accessing justice, including a lack of self-esteem and assertiveness; lack of awareness about the law, their rights under it and of appropriate reporting mechanisms and services, and a fear of stigma, blame, or victimization through the justice system. Laws protecting women and girls' rights and citizenship are first steps towards gender equality. Without a proper legal framework, girls and women have no recourse to protect their rights and without equal access to citizenship, girls cannot fully participate in their communities and economies. With this project, RUGWOFCU will partner with legal frameworks around the community such as law firms, police stations and civil society organizations to advocate for policy and legal reform to protect teenage girls and women, improve implementation and enforcement of existing laws and policies; and raise awareness of the laws and legal protection teenage girls and women are granted under the law.



With successful partnerships with these legal entities, RUGWOCFU will provide interventions with right-based education and support networks in order to challenge gender norms and stereotypes.

## **7.7. Motivation and Long term view**

Despite progress toward gender equality around the world, in too many countries, especially Uganda, girls and women still lack access to full legal and social rights and economic assets. Women and girls face discrimination and violence throughout their lives, but the challenges are particularly acute for teenage girls. All over the world, a high percentage of girls are not in school, most of whom are teenagers and over 250 million girls, globally, live in poverty. These girls face diminished economic opportunities, high rates of illiteracy, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, early and unintended pregnancies, trafficking and other forms of discrimination, violence and abuse. These disadvantages both perpetuate and ensure cycles of poverty which multiply as generation of girls have families of their own.

Investing in adolescent girls, particularly through education, benefits not only girls and their families, but entire communities and economies. Girls' attendance in formal education during adolescence is correlated with later marriage, later childbearing, lower rates of HIV/AIDS and other reproductive morbidities. Importantly, these benefits accrue to the next generation. Each extra year of girls' education is correlated with a 5-10 percent reduction in infant mortality and a child born to a mother who can read evidently has more advantages and is 50 percent more likely to live past age five.

RUGWOCFU is motivated to use young girls in school and the activities of the RAGICRUWO initiative, to engage and empower other girls, families and communities to join the conversation and create many more opportunities for our society to rise above the status quo and create better lives for generations to come.

## **8. RAGICRUWO (project Implementation Details)**

### **8.1. Launch**

The project shall launch on the second week of February 2019 upon school resumption, in all participant schools. On the day of the launch a club shall each be formed in the schools. The club shall be called RAISING THE GIRL CHILD. During that launch, the vision and mission of the project shall be made known to all the teenage girls (the club shall be open to all adolescent girls enrolled in the selected schools in question) participating in the project. The launch shall each take place in the selected schools each on the same day (a team of volunteers working with the organization oversee the launching activities, in the different schools, each led by a member of the executive board).





## 8.2. Club Coordinators

On the day of the launching, the schools' administration will each provide one or two (in a case where a club has more than a hundred students) teachers who will volunteer to serve as the club coordinators and hence work as a liaison officer between the school and RUGWOFCU. A list of all the liaison offers shall be made and the very next week, shall be called for a one day training on knowledge of the expected outcome of the entire project and shall be served with necessary documents and modules which will help them effectively coordinate the clubs (the meeting days and frequency shall be decided unanimously by club members and their coordinators)

RUGWOFCU project department shall produce monthly program schedule of activities which shall be sent to all the clubs and the coordinators shall be expected to follow the program in running the club, meanwhile regular visits shall be made by the project team to oversee the smooth running of the clubs. The coordinators shall be expected to give monthly reports on the running of activities in their various clubs.

## 8.3. General Convention

Within the academic year, there shall be three general conventions where all the clubs shall come together for an exchange program. During such come-together programs, the girls shall present articles, talks, practical demonstration of the skills they have learned so far in their various clubs, ranging from leadership skills, health watch tips, domestic and home keeping skills, practical knowledge on the awareness of sexual reproductive health, understanding the menstrual cycle, family planning methods, HIV prevention etc.

During these conventions, top prominent female leaders in Uganda shall be invited to talk on various topics particular to empowering the girl child such as importance of education, economic empowerment talks and intervention, capacity building and communication. The girls will have an opportunity to meet face-to-face with these prominent women leaders and ask them pertinent questions about career success, employment and business opportunities, women and politics etc. making them meet people most of them have only seen on television and having the opportunity to talk with them directly will raise their expectations and expand their perspectives on the possibility of actually being part of the change they seek.

## 9. RAGICRUWO OUTREACH PROGRAMS

This project shall have a monthly outreach program which will be either a sporting event, cleanup campaign or a television debate, depending on the need and the targeted environment. With this outreach program, every last Saturday of the month from October 2019 to June 2021, the clubs will each send representatives to communities to carryout community sensitization to parents, community leaders and most especially other girls who are not opportune to be in school or not in any of the participating schools. (This outreach shall be coordinated by the all members of the executive board of RUGWOFCU). This awareness shall be done by a cleanup



exercise at local council halls, church premises, chiefs' palaces, government offices etc. while the exercise is going on, placards carrying relevant information about the course will be posted around and while some are cleaning others will be stationed at junctions around the vicinity, sharing handbills to the population, carrying strategic information about empowering teenage girls.

In the case of sporting activities, teams shall be created to play a football match, one club against another, all the girls shall also come out for an early morning jog before the match. Prizes shall be awarded to the winning teams. Here the same exercise of sharing handbills shall be done while the players are in the field.

On some months a Television program shall be produced with our partner TV station, where representatives from the clubs will have a round table talk, addressing the various challenges facing the girl child and suggesting possible ways through which they can be empowered. Such a program on Television will help spread the course of this project and go a long way empower families and communities out of Ruhama County.

## **10. CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD (October 11, 2020)**

### **10.1. THEME: A HEALTHY GIRL = A HEALTHY MOTHER: WHAT COUNTS FOR GIRLS**

The day of the girl child is a day set aside by the United Nations to observe and support more opportunity for girls and increase awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide based upon their gender. The most targeted issues that inspire this commemoration are; ***girls' right/access to education, nutrition, and legal rights, medical care and protection from discrimination, violence against women and unfree child marriage.***

Since the 'RAGICRUWO' project objectives center on these issues, RUGWOCFU shall organize a grand event to celebrate the day with the participant schools in order to create more awareness and further engage the community at large to get involved with empowering the girl child.

### **10.2. Activities on the international day of the girl child**

The event shall be celebrated at the selected ground in Ntungamo Municipality and shall commence from 7:00 am. The selected ground shall be communicated to all participants at least a week prior to the event.

The activities shall commence in the morning at 7; 00 am with a peaceful march with all the girls from the participant schools. They shall march with sign board and placards with vital messages on empowering the girl and the theme boldly written. The march's start and end points shall also be communicated in advance, the girls shall showcase the cultural diversity of Uganda by dressing in the different cultural attires but shall march with their school sign boards so as to identify their



various participant institutions. And as they march, they shall sing different traditional peace songs in different Ugandan languages. They will march and converge at the venue of the event.

The activities shall include educative talks, debates, article presentations, traditional dances, fashion parade, artistic and food processing exhibitions, free HIV testing and counseling.

Experts in various fields shall also be invited to inspire and empower the girls with different talks and lessons. After the march, the program proper shall commence from 10:00 am to 4pm.

## **11. THE RAISING THE GIRL CHILD TOURNAMENT**

It is true that sports especially football is one game that almost magically brings people together and unites them. So including a football tournament in this project is RUGWOCFU's way of further creating awareness of the million ways in which the girl child can be part of nation building, showcasing the talents and engaging the society on what's possible for the girl child.

The clubs shall each create a full team that will represent the school in the tournament. RUGWOCFU shall employ the services of a soccer expert who will organize a full tournament with all the rounds up to the finals. The tournament will start in December 2019. The game shall be organized with normal football calendar ethics and the winner team will receive a cash prize and a winning emblem which the school will keep.

The clubs are divided into two groups. Every group will play matches equivalent to the number of all the participating clubs and the teams will all interplay excluding semi-finals and finals. There will be three matches every week starting from December 1, 2019. Two matches for two matches for semifinals will be played on Wednesday February 7, 2020 and finals on February 14, 2020.

## **12. SUMMARY OF THE BUDGET**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>BUDGET LINE (UGX)</b>
2019	80,000,000
2020	120,000,000
2021	100,000,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>300,000,000</b>

