



PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION
For a biodiversity legacy

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Reg n° 343/RGB/NGO/LP/07/2018

Global Giving
Washington DC
United States of America

Musanze, March 19, 2021

Re: **Covering letter**

Dearest,

Following we joined the Global Giving community for the April accelerator program, I'm delighted to forward here below additional information to support our project posted on your website for the above-mentioned program.

This document is sent to further details on the essence of this campaign and applicants. As below detailed, "**Help 82 Kids Study without Covid-19 risks**" is a campaign undertaken by Partners For Conservation and its partner SPES NOVA Junior Academy, in efforts to provide the school with adequate facilities to promote water and sanitation amid COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, after Partners For Conservation and SPES NOVA Junior Academy engaged into a partnership to invest kids into a biodiversity promotion, protection and conservation for a legacy, both have always worked together to set up strategies to mobilize local and international support. Among other strategies include: "**Help 82 Kids Study without Covid-19 risks**", designed as campaign to raise funds to provide the school with necessary and adequate facilities to ensure a decent learning environment for 82 kids. All the funds raised under this campaign will be paid to the school to support the planned activities detailed in the budget (refer to point 12)

Whereas, we expect to have provided enough details in regards to the campaign and applicants, we would however be happy to provide further should need be

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emmanuel Bugingo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Emmanuel BUGINGO
Executive Director & Founder

PROJECT TITLE: RWANDA” HELP 82 KIDS STUDY WITHOUT COVID-19 RISKS”

A. Applicant names: Partners For Conservation

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1. Project summary

When the government of Rwanda decided to reopen schools after a whole year without school activities due to COVID-19, the 1st challenge has been how existing schools would accommodate the high number of children including new enrollments. Despite the GoR to constructing additional classrooms, it was still noted that most of the classrooms were overcrowded. This is how SPES NOVA Junior Academy was created. The basic goal was to propose additional classrooms to help local schools address the overpopulation issue. When over 82 children joined the newly established institute, we realized how the issue was serious and under-estimated. Since, the school embarked on a long process of finding enough classrooms, school equipment and materials, teachers etc. Unfortunately, the school still has a long way to go to acquire basic facilities including facilities for Public Health campaigns such as water and toilettes, hence this project. Under “ **Help 82 kids study without COVID-19 Risks**” campaign, this project is expecting necessary funds to help the school address that issue.

2. Background

The outbreak of COVID-19 and measures to prevent it from spreading have affected all sectors of life worldwide. The most and challenging one is education. In fact, due to total lockdown measures all schools had to close.

This implies that for many countries and in respect to their school calendars, two generations found themselves in same year and when the government of Rwanda decided to reopen schools after a whole year without school activities due to the pandemic, the 1st challenge has been how existing schools would accommodate the high number of children including new enrollments. Despite the GoR constructing additional classrooms, it was still noted that most of the classrooms were over-crowded. This is how SPENOS NOVA Academy has been created. The basic goal was to propose additional classrooms to help local school address the overpopulation issue. When over 82 children joined the newly established institute, we realized how the issue was serious and under-estimated. Since, the school embarked on a long process of finding enough classrooms, school equipment and materials, teachers etc. This has not been an easy task, therefore in order to meet its high potential, the school is enthusiastic to work with local and international partners for additional inputs. This is how a partnership with Partners For Conservation, a local NGO experienced in protection, conservation and responsible tourism under a project called NURSING FOR THE FUTURE.

This project, involves investing the schoolchildren into biodiversity legacy preservation through conservation, protection and promotional activities. In fact, being situated on the feet of the Volcanoes National Park, home of the last remaining mountain gorillas and the national tourism vision in Rwanda, this project represents a huge opportunity for these kids to learn and understand their awaited role for the preservation of a biodiversity legacy and take actions NOW. We started with raising awareness activities on basic aspects such as environmental and public health issues as the two main project components. For this, the project aims at providing the school with basic facilities for environmental education and public health. So far, the project managed to support the school with basic equipment to conduct awareness raising campaigns in environmental issues such as projector, CD and books. Right now, we're looking for facilities to conduct the Public Health campaigns. This is a challenging situation for project as we need to find WASH facilities such as toilets, water and lavatories amid COVID-19 and different measures to prevent it from spreading.

In fact, most useful facilities to stop COVID-19 from spreading include (but not limited to) water along with facemasks and social distance. Whereas children have facemasks and always bear them and that the school have enough rooms for social distance, the school doesn't have enough water. Currently, the school is using one rain water and a lavatory with a small compartment. Under this campaign "Help 82 Kids study without COVID-19 Risks", Partners For Conservation and SPES NOVA JUNIOR ACADEMY School, would like to raise enough funds to acquire necessary facilities in order to take advantage of the weather season here which gives rain for 300 days out of 360 a year.

For this, we intend to increase number of rain water from one to five (with 4 new more), extend the capacity of lavatory from 1 space to 7 compartments (with six new), and connect rain water with pipelines.

3. Problem Statement

Globally, UNESCO states that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the near-total closures of schools, universities and colleges. According to the same source, most governments decided to temporarily close educational institutions in an attempt to reduce the spread of the pandemic. As of 12 January 2021, approximately 825 million learners were affected due to school closures in response to the pandemic. For UNICEF, currently 23 countries are implementing nationwide closures and 40 are implementing local closures, impacting about 47 percent of the world's student population.

In Rwanda, the national lockdown affected nearly 3.6 million students (**Global Partnership for Education, June, 2020**). It is assumed that COVID-19 will affect dropout, repetition and enrollment rates in primary and secondary education through: impacting the socio-economic environment of pupils, making all pupils older compared to a scenario where COVID-19 did not occur (because school closures kept some kids from joining school), by creating circumstances that affect learning (through school closures, disruptions due to COVID-19 and the shortening of the academic calendar), (**Insights on prediction impact of COVID-19 in Rwandan Schools**)

Besides the closure of schools as one of the measures to prevent the pandemic to spread nationwide, other measures were taken into consideration and appropriate strategies to address them were proposed. These include issues of health and safety of students and teachers, emotional and psychological support of teachers and students. To address them both the Ministry of Education and the Rwanda Education Board recommend the limitation at 32 the number of students per class of which 2 children have to share one desk. This calls for more classrooms, desks and teachers. For this, the Government of Rwanda and its partners through the Ministry of Education constructed additional classrooms and provided additional desks and teachers. It's with this regards that SPES NOVA Junior ACADEMY proposed its contribution to ongoing GoR efforts of providing enough classrooms for students by opening this school.

Regarding hygiene and sanitation to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Rwanda Education Board (REB) recommends at least one hand washing sink per two classes. In this regard, the school managed to provide one toilet and water tank. Under Nursing for the Future partnership between the school and Partners For Conservation, a campaign to raise necessary funds, "Help 82 Kids Study without COVID-19 Risks" in order to raise needful funds to provide the school with necessary and adequate facilities to ensure a decent learning environment.

In fact, although the school has managed to provide classrooms, basic school equipment and materials and a teaching team, the school is highly looking for facilities to ensure kids have access to proper basic public health especially in terms of water and sanitation amid COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Justification

When the spread of COVID-19 in the world occurred, many countries closed the all academia institutions to protect children against the pandemic. Thereafter, the UNESCO, the UNICEF and the World Health Organization recommended the strict observance of the regulations for protecting children once schools resume. According to the Rwanda Ministry of Education statistics conducted in the August 2020, the number of children has increased from 45 to 75 per classroom because of those who were in the beginning years had to repeat the same year and there were children also who had to join a school for the academic year who would share the same scholastic materials. In Rwanda, the higher institutions and secondary schools together with upper primaries reopened in November 2020 while Lower primary and Kindergartens reopened their doors on 18th January 2021.

Despite theories that followed the outbreak of COVID-19 (without lack of scientific proof,) suggesting that the contamination rate for young was low. Unfortunately, this doesn't provide any guarantee for the long-term management of this virus. In fact, with what is now being called "**variant virus**", COVID-19 is becoming more and more uncontrollable, which keeps the entire humanity at severe risk. It is true that the world has now embarked on vaccinating campaigns, but, there're still uncertainty on how long the whole humankind would be vaccinated especially those from the "**South**". Again, preventive measures are still indispensable to prevent this disease from spreading, henceforth "Help 82 Kids Study without COVID-19 Risks" to help the school overcome this most challenging situation

5. Main objective project

The project main objective is: ***to provide the school with necessary and adequate water and sanitation facilities to protect students from any COVID-19 risk.***

6. Specific objectives:

- (i) Provide the school with toilet facilities
- (ii) Provide the school with rain water harvest facilities
- (iii) Provide the school with a conducive learning environmental free of COVID-19 risks
- (iv) Raise awareness for the use of water and sanitation as preventive measures against COVID-19

7. Significance

According to the World Health Organizations, the major way of fighting against Covid-19 remains handwashing at least 45 to 60 seconds promptly. This requires a good and maximum water supply system. This is a challenging situation for this school which has only one toilet and water tank to serve over 100 users including kids and school personnel. "Help 82 Kids Study without COVID-19 Risks", is engaged to help solve the problem.

8. Replicability

The school is surrounded by over 500 households. Most of the kids come from this community. Likewise, the school, the community also doesn't have basic facilities for WASH. It is anticipated that, the availability of such facilities will trigger the curiosity of adjacent communities to have similar facilities. Besides that, the project will serve as a case study for local leaders to learn about alternative approaches to water supply. It is also anticipated that the project will inspire leaders from neighboring on developing similar facilities for their schools.

9. Area

The project will be implemented in Murundo Village, Gakoro Cell, Gacaca Sector, Musanze district, Northern Province, Rwanda.

10. Conclusion:

This project represents a huge opportunity for the school to contribute towards ongoing local and international responses to COVID-19 pandemic while improving its infrastructures. Requested facilities will help the school develop conducive learning environment for the future leaders of the country.

11. Information on Applicants:

- **About Partners For Conservation:** Partners For Conservation is a Rwanda charity that was founded in 2014. It was registered by the Rwanda Governance Board as a local non-governmental organization under n°343/RGB/NGO/LP/07/2018. Its overall mission is to save a biodiversity legacy through the promotion, protection and conservation. Partners For Conservation serves as a platform that provides opportunities to everyone from farmers to businessmen; from children to adults; from illiterates to academics; from low-income people to donors; from volunteers to

professionals, to appreciate and celebrate their contributions towards the conservation of the biodiversity.

Objectively, Partners For Conservation is dedicated to the extension and sharing of opportunities in promotion, protection and conservation of biodiversity through Education, Community Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, Public Health and Climate Justice.

Partners For Conservation aims at preserving a biodiversity legacy through the promotion, protection and conservation.

PFC theory of change suggests that “If local communities are well informed, well skilled and well equipped in regards to the biodiversity issues through research and education, public health, entrepreneurship & community empowerment, they will influence decision making processes for the preservation of a biodiversity legacy that guarantees their sustainable socio-economic and welfare”.

- **About SPES NOVA JUNIOR ACADEMY JUNIOR ACADEMY:** is a pre and primary school founded in in 2020. It was registered as the Ministry of Education as a pre and primary school under no. MINEDUC/2020/0061 on 1st September 2020 with a mission of Educating and equipping children become highly skilled, Godly leaders and yeast of our community.

Objectively SPES NOVA JUNIOR ACADEMY JUNIOR ACADEMY was formed to: fight against illiteracy in one of the Musanze District rural communities; fight against the speed of the spread of Covid-19 in Musanze district local communities, reduce the number of children who dropout from school; increase the number of girls who go to school; help in increasing on infrastructure in the mentioned community; provide quality education through the use of technology in the mentioned rural area; solve the problem of long journeys done on foot by pupils looking for private schools in the region; reduce the problem of pupils who often get sick and stop their studies because of the hardships of the tiresome journey; facilitate the parents to access the schools in the region; increase the number of affordable schools in the region and reduce the overcrowdings of classrooms in the region; mobilize for girls’ child education in the mentioned rural area.

- **About this campaign: “Help 82 Kids study without COVID-19 Risks”** is part of Nursing for the Future partnership between Partners For Conservation and SPES NOVA Junior Academy.

Whereas under **Nursing for the Future** partnership, Partners For Conservation and SPES NOVA Junior Academy aim at investing the schoolchildren into biodiversity legacy preservation through conservation, protection and promotional activities, under **“Help 82 Kids study without COVID-19 Risks”** campaign, both partners would like to raise necessary funds to supplement existing efforts undertaken to ensure decent learning environment. All the funds raised through this campaign will be handed to the school to support the planned activities as budgeted below:

12. Budget In US\$)

Nº	Item	Unity	Total Unities	Unity Cost (Total Cost
Plastic Rain water Tanks					
1	Rain water tanks	Rain water tank	4	1,200	4,800
2	Basements for tanks	Basement	4	150	600
Construction of lavatories					
3	Trucks of bricks	Truck	3	500	1,500
4	Truck of sand	Truck	2	120	240
5	Bags of cement	Bags	300	15	4,500
6	Manpower for construction work	Manpower	10 for 5 days	5	2,500
7	Iron rolls	Iron rolls	24	10	240
8	boxes of Tiles	Box	10	25	250
9	Water Tabs	Water tab	6	10	60
10	Iron sheets	Iron sheet	50	10	500
11	Nails	Kgs	20	5	100
Water supply system					
12	Water pipes	Pipe	10	30	360
13	Manpower for construction work	Manpower	5 for 1 day	5	25
14	Water pump.	Pump	1	350	350
	TOTAL				16,025

11.Conclusion

