**PROJECT PROPOSAL:**

**HELP 66 TEEN AND ADOLESCENT MOTHERS WHO GAVE BIRTH AT HOME DUE TO UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES BY PROVIDING MILKING COWS TO SUSTAIN THEIR LIVLIHOOD**

**ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

**Name of organization:** Friends Peace House

**Headquarter Address:** Kicukiro District, Kigali Province- Rwanda

**Web site:** www.friendspeacehouse.org

**Facebook page:** https://www.facebook.com/friendspeacehouse

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**Project implementation area:** Bugesera District, Western Province- Rwanda

**Legal Information:**

**Rwanda Government Board registration number:** 38RGBRE02015

**Vision of organization:** To see Rwandese people in good relationships and living together in healthy, well-developed communities.

**Friends Peace House Activities:** - Vocational training for vulnerable youth through a school named Mwananshuti - Community Savings and Loans Program - Conservation Agriculture - Trainings in conflict resolution, mediation and trauma healing - Returning Refugee support - Collaboration with other local NGO to promote peace and development.

1. **EXECUIVE SUMMARY**

Despite socio-economic development in Rwanda, young people still face enormous challenges like adolescent and teenage pregnancies. Youth-friendly services are still limited in scope and coverage; currently, only 13.6 per cent of national health facilities offer these services. Adolescent pregnancy is a consequence of inadequate or no access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health services and information or health care.

The context of Rwanda is that health and sexual reproduction education is taboo for some families and therefore girls with unplanned pregnancies are neither heard nor treated well. Their lives often become disadvantaged once they reveal they are pregnant. Many of them scramble to survive, some are thrown out of their homes, others are abused, and life is generally difficult for them. They lack money for basic needs and once they give birth, their children suffer greatly from malnutrition and receive hatred due to the fact that they were birthed in hardship. These instances have increased drastically due to the quarantines and lack of work during this period of COVID-19.

Friends Peace House is a faith-based organization whose mission is to promote peace and development in Rwandan communities. The organization is working to address teen and adolescents’ challenges by supporting comprehensive sexuality education in Bugesera District located in Western province of Rwanda where the numbers of teen and adolescent pregnancies are high. We also work to create savings groups for vulnerable young girls who gave birth at home with the intention of sustaining their lives through income generating activities that they can start after getting credit from the accumulated savings. Today two groups of 33 teen and adolescent mothers who birthed unwanted pregnancies was formed and helped with financial skills.

The Government of Rwanda encourages and provides a cow to some people for producing milk for nutritional self-sufficiency (GIRINKA Program). This program is a continuous cycle where the household is given a cow and must sign a contract to provide a calve to another vulnerable family. But every citizen’s possibilities for getting a cow are limited.

The approach of this project will be the same as the approach of the government of Rwanda that involves a continuous cycle: Friends Peace House will provide 33 milking cows to 33 identified teen and adolescent mothers from Juru sector. They will sign a contract with the cell officials to provide 33 calves to 33 other vulnerable adolescent or teen mothers of Mwogo sector. They will also sign a contract to give 33 more calves to any 33 vulnerable households; this means that the project will reach to many people outside of the original 33. This project will also have income-based linkages in terms of manures and fertilizers, milk production, bulls for selling, and so on.

For years now, it has been proven that milking cows contribute to the fight against nutritional insecurity and therefore, fighting against poverty.

1. **CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION**

The lives of the teen and adolescent mothers are vulnerable and they cannot afford food for themselves or their children; they are isolated, thrown away, rejected, school drop-outs, abused, often hated by their families, and working tends to be difficult because they must care for their children. This project is designed for promoting the livelihoods of these teen and adolescent mothers by giving a milking cow to every mother. This will be a sustainable way to handle their problems since milking cows are a source of income and, at the same time, a source of food. A milking cow does not require any external labor and caring for it will not deprive them of the ability to care for their children due to the availability of grasses in their regions.

The project will generate income with:

* Milk production for consuming and selling
* Selling of bulls to get money for basic needs
* Use of dung and manure in their kitchen gardens, banana plots, and selling what is leftover to other households
* Distribution of calves to other vulnerable households

This project will enable them to save for life; and the purpose of Friends Peace House will be successful because they will be able to earn money to meet their needs and save money for future investments or unforeseen circumstances.

1. **PROJECT BENEFICIARIES**

33 initial identified teen and adolescent mothers from Juru sectors will be provided with milking cows; they will then provide the first female calves to 33 more teen and adolescent mothers of Mwogo sectors. From there the government will maintain that each newborn female calf will be sent to a family in need, meaning that this project has the potential to reach innumerably more than our original 33 families.

1. **PARTICIPATION OF BENEFICIARIES**

The single mother’s participation will be centered on: Supplying labor to various works such as fodder planting, insemination, maintenance of stalls, and cow feeding distributions.

1. **EXPECTED SITUATION AT THE END OF THE PROJECT**
* Creation of income to young single mothers
* Support the government policy to reduce malnutrition, especially to children
* Extending the benefit of the project to other non-beneficiary households
1. **DESIRED OUTCOMES**

We desire not only long-term self-reliance for teen and adolescent mothers, but also a good life for them and their children by creating the ability to access health care services, education, and sustainable development through income generating activities. We also strive to expand health and sexual reproduction education in our communities to reduce unplanned pregnancies, enhance knowledge of contraceptives, as well as reduce risk factors of unprotected sex.

1. **ESTIMATION BUDGET:**

**Buying cows:**

33 Cows \* 350,000 RWF = 11,550,000 RWF

**Cowsheds for cows:**

A place of 3m2 of area is needed for each animal which is on average 2.5m long. (From the nose to the tail).

33 Cowsheds \* 80,000 RWF = 2,640,000 RWF

**Manure shed:**

This is a simple covered structure for manure. Animals are regularly tied in their stall and then an area to catch manure is created with straw for a litterbin. The contents are then shoveled from the litterbin into the covered storage shed for creation of fertilizer.

33 Manure shed \* 25,000 RWF = 825,000 RWF

**Transport:**

33 Cows \* 20,000 = 660,000 RWF

**Project overhead costs:**

150,000 RWF x 12 months = 1,800,000

Grand total: 17,475,000 RWF worth $17,831 USD (Exchange rate: 1USD=980 RWF)