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**CONCEPT NOTE**

**‘‘VEGETABLE GARDENS FOR FOOD SECURITY’’**

**Introduction:**

With the beginning of the rainfall and planting season, it’s important that refugee youth are urgently provided with necessary inputs for the production of vegetables to supplement on their diet while earning incomes from sale of extra vegetables. The recent announcement by World Food Program to focus food assistance for only the extremely vulnerable category of refugees including the elderly, the sick and pregnant and lactating mothers, means that majority of the youth and their households in general will be left without any food to eat, further increasing the level of malnutrition and poor health among children and youth. Voice for Humanity with support from Go Campaign in 2022, supported 100 youths with goats, sheep and piglets to increase on their income levels. While this was a very successful project, it will likely take longer for refugees to realize adequate food security. This therefore call for an urgent need to provide quick maturing vegetable seeds, farming tools and technical guidance to selected youth to undertake vegetable growing for food security, nutrition, employment and income. It’s on this background that, Voice for Humanity Uganda is seeking for urgent funding of **$30,00** to support 200 youth undertake backyard vegetable growing.

Generally, **$150** supports one refugee youth to acquire all the necessary Agricultural tools and inputs needed for him/her to produce adequate vegetables to feed him/herself and other household members over a three months period while able to sell the extra vegetables to earn incomes.

**Justification for Promoting Vegetable Growing:**

Besides providing required micro-nutrients to the body, vegetables are quick maturing normally taking between 2-12 weeks to be ready for harvesting hence providing an immediate solution to youths food insecurity, unemployment, poverty, hunger, and dietary challenges. Government of Uganda through the office of the prime minister only provides 30X30 square meters of land to each refugee household which cannot support large scale commercial farming hence making backyard vegetable growing a viable option. Vegetable crops are able to generate income in a small plot of land within a short period of time thus improving on youth’s livelihoods.

Already the levels of hunger and associated negative effects of malnutrition and poor health are alarming among refugee communities in Adjumani. Unfortunately, while refugees have very limited options to produce their own food due to lack of tools and skills, World Food Program recently announced targeted food assistance to only extremely vulnerable refugees (the elderly, the sick, pregnant women and lactating mothers among other) due to funding gaps. This means, majority of the refugee households are going to experience acute food shortages, malnutrition and increased levels of poverty.

Fortunately however, the rains have just began to fall and the planting season has started for which refugees especially youths can take advantage and plant quick maturing crops especially vegetables to provide an immediate solution to acute food shortages, malnutrition and poor health. It’s therefore important that 105 youths are urgently provided with tools, seeds and technical support vital for them to undertake backyard vegetable growing. Immediate funding from Go Campaign for this intervention will be a game changer in ensuring young refugees do not die of hunger and malnutrition.

**Total Project Cost and how the Funds shall be used:**

The total cost of this project over the three (3) months period is **$30,000**. An Average of **$150** will be spent on each of the **200** targeted refugee youths to provide the required Agricultural tools and inputs that enable them to produce quick and adequate vegetables to supplement their diet and sell extra to earn income. The requested funding of **$30,000** will be used to procure assortment of farming tools including hoes, pangas, gumboots as well as vegetable seeds to be given to the selected youth. Part of the funds will be used by the project team to facilitate transportation to the field to support the youth by providing technical guidance. Each targeted youths will be given between 3-4 tins/packs of assorted vegetable seeds depending on their choice.

**Priority Vegetable types under this project:**

The project will target the most nutritious and commonly eaten vegetable types among the refugees. Specifically we will focus on: Okra (Hibiscus esculentus), Nakati (Salanum Aethiopicum), Dodo (Amaranthus Dubius), African Egg Plant, Malakwang (Hibiscus Sabdariffa). These are very quick maturing vegetables which take between 2-12 weeks for harvest. They are also highly nutritious and medicinal too, highly consumed among the refugee communities.

**Project Duration:**

This will be a three (3) months project expected to commence in July 1st 2023 to September 30th 2023. This is within the first planting season of the year.

**Sustainability Plan:**

The vegetables to be provided are able to mature and produce their own seeds. It’s expected that the youths will use the provided seeds to produce more seeds by allowing the plants to mature and produce its own seeds which they can harvest and store for ongoing planting. They can also share the seeds with other youths and community members. The project team will provide onsite (in the field) practical technical guidance to the youth which skills the beneficiary youths will continue to apply/use and even pass on to other youths beyond the project period.

The youths will also be able to sell extra vegetables to earn incomes which they can use to procure more seeds for themselves beyond the project period.

**Project Budget:**

The total cost of this project over the three (3) months period is **$30,000**. An Average of **$150** will be spent **on each of the 105 targeted** refugee youths to provide the required Agricultural tools and inputs as per the budget breakdown below.

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| **S/N** | **ITEM** | **QUANTITY** | **UNIT COST** | **FREQUENCY** | **TOTAL COST** |
| 1 | Assorted Vegetable seeds (of good quality and high yielding) | 1000 Tins | 10 | 1 | 10,000 |
| 2 | Pangas (For Land Clearing) | 200 Pieces | 10 | 1 | 2,000 |
| 3 | Hoes (For land clearing and planting) | 200 Pieces | 10 | 1 | 2,000 |
| 4 | Watering Cans for the beneficiaries | 200 Pieces | 5 | 1 | 1000 |
| 5 | Gumboots for the beneficiaries  | 200 Pairs | 10 | 1 | 2,000 |
| 6 | Motor cycle/vehicle Hires by staff to field to provide technical support |  |  |  | 3000 |
| **Total Funds Requested** | **$30,000** |