



Raising voices for African **education**
Porte-voix pour l'**éducation** en Afrique

Project Bank **IDAY**

Improve health in schools with school gardens

Country: **Burundi**

Beneficiaries: **4500 pupils** from 10 secondary schools, 600 members of the teaching staff and **60 family members** in 5 rural community plantations

Duration of the project: **12 months**

Project promoter: **Cercle des Ingénieurs agronomes pour le Développement (CIAD)**

Total cost: **60 878€**

External funds requested: **53 886 €**

Summary

Context

Burundi, like many other African countries, suffers from malnutrition and food insecurity. This country also suffers from recurrent diseases such as malaria. Children are among the most common victims of these evils. School absenteeism, weakened cognitive abilities or high medical expenditures at the expense of education ones are only a few examples of the consequences of precarious health conditions. To overcome these obstacles, a Burundian civil society organisation proposes developing school gardens to help pupils and their family grow fruits, vegetables as well as medicinal and highly nutritious plants.

Project description

The Burundian organisation CIAD, a member of the IDAY-Burundi coalition, wants to establish school gardens in 10 secondary schools and 5 community plantations managed by local farmers near these schools. CIAD will also put irrigation facilities in place using water tanks. Highly nutritious crops will be chosen according to the specific ecological conditions of the region (papaya, citrus, plum trees, mango trees, moringa trees, neem, protein-rich vegetables, *Artemisia annua*, citronella, etc).

Drunk as an infusion, the *A. annua* plant prevents and cures malaria – among other things. *A. annua* actually used to manufacture antimalarial drugs which are too costly for the majority of the African population. Planted in front of houses and schools, *A. Annua* also acts as a mosquito repellent. When combined together, some of these plants also allow for the purification of water.

This project will involve several stakeholders: engineers from the CIAD, local farmers located near the secondary schools, Youth Clubs, pupils and their parents, teachers and IDAY-Burundi whose task will be to carry out advocacy campaigns to encourage the government to scale up the project throughout the country. Local farmers and volunteers from the Youth Clubs will be the main actors of this project. Through their involvement in the project, the pupils will get agricultural training and will be able to share their knowledge with their relatives.

The project will work as a development catalyst as demonstrated by a similar project carried out by members of the IDAY network in Kenya. In fact, youth exchanges between Burundi and Kenya are foreseen as part of this project for best practices sharing. It should also be mentioned that this project is part of a regional programme aiming at the promotion of school gardens in 9 African countries members of the IDAY network.

Objectives

General

- Improve the learning environment in 10 secondary schools effected by precarious health conditions.

Specific

- Contribute to the reduction of infectious diseases (mainly malaria) that undermine the schooling of children and reduce the productivity in rural farming where access to medicines is very limited.
- Enable children, teachers, local farmers and their families to have a healthy diet thanks to the products grown in the school gardens and community plantations.
- Train the beneficiaries and surrounding population in agricultural techniques, rainwater capture and storage to irrigate the crops
- Sensitize local farmers to the benefits of highly nutritious and medicinal plants which are more affordable than pharmaceutical treatments
- Improve access to irrigation water
- Extend the project through advocacy campaigns and the production of seeds and plants for distribution to other schools

Expected results

- Decrease in school absenteeism
- Decrease in the medical expenses that will enable families to spare money to school their children
- Increase in the performance and dynamism of pupils (girls and boys alike)
- 10 school gardens and 5 community plantations of nearly 1 hectare each are grown
- Installation of 15 water tanks
- Good command of agricultural techniques of *A. annua* and other plants by the project stakeholders
- Good command of rainwater capture and storage by the surrounding population
- Production of seeds and plants that are made available for other schools
- Integration of school gardens in the country's educational policy and in the strategies at the community level

Contacts

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