

1. Explanation of Project Management

The Rwandan School Village Project was registered as a Scottish charity (number: SC038526) on 02/08/2007. The purposes of the charity are to relieve poverty, advance education and improve health (and promote environment protection and improvement). Our initial projects are centred on the Mihabura Primary School in Bugarama, Southern Rwanda.

The project is funded and co-ordinated from the UK, with a local Rwandan management team. All team members are volunteers. Our Voluntary policy is key to our organisation and is appended to this document.

The Rwandan and UK team members communicate regularly, by e-mail and phone, to agree strategic plans and resolve issues as they arise.

2. Project Plan and Budgets for Mihabura Primary School for 2010

RSVP budget for the Mihabura School project in 2010 is estimated at £26,970:

1. In 2007 RSVP piloted a school meals programme with P6 students (final year of primary school) at the Mihabura school. This was extended to P5 pupils in 2008 and then to P4 pupils in 2009. The 2010 budget includes extension to P3 pupils. Estimated cost for 2010: £25,200.
2. Each year RSVP funds a HIV educational trip for P6 students and their teachers. The children visit a hospital to see a HIV patient and learn about prevention methods and the social burden of HIV directly from healthcare professionals. Since almost all the children have no electricity in their homes, TV or radio adverts don't reach them. So, both pupils and teachers hear key information from doctors and nurses. Estimated cost for two P6 classes in 2010: £540.
3. RSVP has been providing curriculum books from 2007. Recent changes in Government policy mean that children are expected to receive free books (1 per 2 children) in 2009, therefore RSVP plan to provide support materials such as dictionaries, maps etc. Estimated cost for 2009: £250.
4. RSVP provides a small incentive payment to teachers, previously based on the pass rate for the national exam the children sit at the end of P6. Payment for 2009 was based on results announced in January and was £440 (approx. £34 per teacher). Recent changes in the education system means that children now sit a national test in year 3 of "Tronc Commun". Therefore future payments will be based on the area tests sat at the end of each term. RSVP have estimated a cost of £880 based on the larger class sizes this year.
5. RSVP plan to provide holiday tuition for the children who have been involved in the primary school project and are now in secondary school. The transition from local primary school to a secondary boarding school is a challenge for the children and this is a way to provide some ongoing support. Estimated cost for 2010: £100.

3. Local Costs and Exchange Rates

RSVP have no local salary costs. Teachers are government funded and our own team are all volunteers. Our costs are included in the Project Plan and Budget described under item 2 above.

Recent changes in exchange rates have increased our local costs by over 20%. All information provided with this application is based on an exchange rate of 800RWF to the pound.

4. Local Political, Economic, Religious and Cultural Information

The political situation in Rwanda is stable. However there are ethnic issues that stem from the 1994 genocide. The local school has a mix of Hutu and Tutsi pupils with both Christian and Islamic backgrounds. The school is owned by a Christian church, with separate religious classes for Christian and Islamic children in accordance with local educational practice. RSVP operates an equal policy irrespective of gender, ethnicity or religion. Bursaries are awarded on a financial need basis only.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

RSVP has ongoing monitoring of school attendance and school meal take up. On a year to year basis we monitor the improvement in educational performance within the Mihabura school and in comparison to the other four local schools (see table below showing the number of children who achieved the grade required to enter secondary school in the last 4 years).

Inspection of the meals programme and equipment supplied are carried out regularly by the local team and on an ad-hoc basis by independent inspectors. The children are also provided with log books so that they can feedback their views on the school meals provided.

We publish extensive statistical data on our website, see our <http://rsvpcharity.org.uk/?cat=33> page.

In 2008 the Mihabura pupils represented 15% of the children in the area who sat the P6 national test. However they accounted for 42% of the children who achieved the grade required to go on to secondary school. We believe this is strong evidence that the projects RSVP are running are proving to be effective.

Village School	2005	2006	2007	2008
Mihabura	5	7	10	13
Muko	-	-	-	9
Ryankana	7	7	5	4
Bugarama	13	8	4	3
Kibangira	3	3	5	4

Note: The table gives the impression that other local schools have decreased in performance over the last four years. However, the grade required to gain secondary school entrance has increased in the last two years.

Voluntary Policy

What does the voluntary policy mean in real terms?

Firstly RSVP will never be allowed to grow into a mega organization. Each new project will be managed by a volunteer and will hold its own account.

Secondly volunteers will indicate availability and tasks they can undertake; and there shall be regular incentive strategies as well as anonymous surveys on commitment levels.

Crucially, more volunteers both in UK and Rwanda will be recruited to match the growth in tasks. However, some jobs requiring skills not held by volunteers may, of course, be hired out to third parties.

The Policy

A huge proportion of money initially raised for African charities is often engulfed in salaries and bureaucracy, which then gives rise to disparities between the rate/magnitude of change on ground and the total amount of money pumped into the western charity industry.

Since full time job status and active involvement in charitable work are not necessary mutually exclusive; and despite acknowledging the legitimacy and need for other charities to operate higher wages/large bureaucratic policies the Rwandan School Village Project (RSVP) seeks to spend a hundred percent of the donors' contribution on the ground (except for completely unavoidable costs such as money transfer fees ^[1]), courtesy of the voluntary policy ^[2] applicable to all RSVP officials and volunteers.

As a RSVP official/volunteer, I therefore pledge to:

- never offer help which goes beyond my resources, be it material, time etc., or which conflicts with any of my commitments.
- carry out services voluntarily agreed to without expecting any refund on expenses incurred whilst on RSVP duties, but instead view these as a loving gift freely donated to RSVP's target population.
- use my expertise and experience to do the tasks voluntarily agreed to without expecting any immediate/long term reward or personal/familial special treatment, being it material or otherwise.

[1] This assertion was inserted after the meeting of 13-14 April 2007.

[2] This policy may be adapted as often as deemed necessary, and possible amendments carry no backdated consequences.