

Rwanda Health Advocacy Project (RHAP)

RwandaRwanda
Gilbert UWIZEYIMANA



Organization type:
nonprofit/ngo/citizen sector
Project Stage:
Established
Budget:
\$10,000 - \$50,000
Website:
<http://www.medsar.net>

 SHARE

- [At risk youth](#)

- [Health education](#)
- [HIV/AIDS](#)
- [Infant health](#)
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- [Vulnerable populations](#)
- [Volunteerism](#)

Project Summary

Elevator Pitch

Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.

independent, non-governmental and non-political organ of medical students of Rwanda. It was founded in 1997 and run for and by medical students on a non-profit basis

About Project

Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?

Our project targets infectious diseases especially HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. The project has three subprojects that target each of said above. Our activities run in more vulnerable groups according to the subproject. For HIV/AIDS, we have activities in prisoners, soldiers, sexual workers and secondary schools; in TB, we have activities in prisoners, HIV+ people and malnourished children; in malaria, we target children less than five years and pregnant women. Target groups were chosen according to research done by different health institutions and reported that those groups are more vulnerable than others.

Solution: What is the proposed solution? Please be specific!

Our solution is to halt the transmission and effects of those diseases by 2015. Our activities are divided into 2: 1. Advocacy: we form advocacy teams according to the target group and teams are made 50% by target group members and 50% by project volunteers; all of them are selected and chosen according to the leadership they have in their community. Each team has its police makers target according to the target group; our main activity is to convince police makers in order to implement activities that help those groups. 2. Peer education. We also conduct our selves peer education in those target groups in order to provide them with sufficient knowledge about the problem because the research has shown that young people that have a significant knowledge regarding infectious diseases stand a great chance of not being contaminated; for malaria, we distribute also mosquito nets. Our main methodology is the use of documentary films and arts and our objectives are achieved 99%.

Impact: How does it Work

Example: Walk us through a specific example(s) of how this solution makes a difference; include its primary activities.

Our project makes a difference according to other health projects that have been implemented in Rwanda as said by Minister of Health in 2010; the key of success is our methodology: 1. Use of documentary films. Our first activity is the production of documentary film; the film is produced by ourselves so that we make every think we consider to solve the problem; and then it is screened in different people especially target groups and stakeholders, this helps us to attract emotions of them according to their role in the problem; target groups decide to change their behavior that causes the problems and stakeholders decide to help as they can in the problem solution. Remember that documentary films show the real life and people know the reality from the documentary. This helps so much the project especially in advocacy because after that police makers saw mistakes they made, they usually decide to help. 2. Peer education. We conduct teaching sessions in those groups and because of all of them has just assisted the film and saw how they are in danger, they are very concentrated in order to learn and they always apply what taught. We include some other activities like condom distribution, mosquito net distributions etc. We form clubs against these diseases, too. Our activities are then some to each subproject and they help us to achieve our objectives than expected. All of our activities are done by volunteers, and this is another key of success; volunteers are qualified because they are all medical students but they also participate in trainings before to work with project.

Sustainability

Marketplace: Who else is addressing the problem outlined here? How does the proposed project differ from these approaches?

Our competitors are some NGOs working in Rwanda and also some other little governmental commissions. We get success than them especially because of our methodology and the use of volunteers. 99% of them use to conduct teaching sessions through trainings and it has shown that people especially youth doesn't like this method of teaching; they also use paid people and those people are looking for their interests rather than the work they have and if there is a little problem with the salary, they stop to work. This is why we are the best in the country; if we have many organizations like MEDSAR, Rwandans may live out of any infectious diseases (Minister of health, 2010). The use of documentary film in advocacy and advocacy is appreciated by public officials and it is confirmed by our impacts

Team

Founding Story

The project started in 2010 where it was funded by MTV-Staying Alive Foundation and Danish Youth Council. We started with said 3 sub projects. Our beautiful moment was in June 2010 where we prepared 27th international Candle light memorial and we invited many youth associations in southern province with different public officials; the events resembled 45,987 people in Huye stadium and minister of health with many public officials were present, our activity was appreciated and presented by the ministry of health in the semester parliament meeting with ministers as the most well organized youth health initiative in Rwanda; it helped us to get trusts from all institutions in the country and implementation of our activities especially advocacy activities became easy.

About You

Organization:

Medical Students Association of Rwanda (MEDSAR)

About You

First Name

Gilbert

Last Name

UWIZEYIMANA

Twitter URL

Facebook URL

About Your Organization

Organization Name

Medical Students Association of Rwanda (MEDSAR)

Organization Country

Country where this project is creating social impact

How long has your organization been operating?

More than 5 years

The information you provide here will be used to fill in any parts of your profile that have been left blank, such as interests, organization information, and website. No contact information will be made public. Please uncheck here if you do not want this to happen..

Innovation

How long have you been in operation?

Operating for 15 years

Which of the following best describes the barrier(s) your innovation addresses? Choose up to two

Access.

Social Impact

Please describe the goal of your initiative; outline what you are trying to achieve

VISION

Project's vision is a nation of able youth Rwandans.

MISSION

Project's mission is to help the development of a healthy, sustainable and educated Rwanda society

GOALS

1. To help Rwanda in halting HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and other infective diseases transmission in Rwanda youth.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To provide Rwandans with relevant information regarding HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria
- 2. to advocate that policy makers implement sustainable activities saving Rwandans against of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria
- 3. To change behavior of some group that makes them more vulnerable

What has been the impact of your solution to date?

Our project has significant and detectable impacts in Rwanda where it is implemented.

The main impact is the reduction of HIV transmission rate among Rwandans through providing information to vulnerable groups, access to condoms and so on; the affection of AIDS has also been reduced because after our advocacy ARVs are free in Rwanda and there is a law punishing every one with stigma and discrimination to HIV+ people. we also reduced the TB transmission rate in Rwandans especially among immunocompromised people like HIV+ and malnourished children, the TB mortality rate has been reduced to 4.1%, TB drugs are free. Because of our advocacy and help 78.5% of Rwandans sleep in mosquito nets and they implemented measures of combating mosquitoes, this diminished people who got malaria especially children less than 5 years and pregnant women by 60.7% in only 2 years; 89.7% also know very well malaria symptoms and they go to the hospital early; this also reduced Malaria mortality rate by 56%.

What is your projected impact over the next five years?

Our project target in 5 years:

- 1. HIV transmission rate will be reduced to 0.5% and prevalence will be on 1% in Rwanda; We want that the first vulnerable group will have only the HIV prevalence of 2.5%; the stigma and discrimination will also be a history in Rwanda; they will be improvement of AIDS treatment in hospitals through education.
- 2. There will be improvement of knowledge regarding TB prevention and the TB mortality rate will be reduced to 1%; hospitals will have measures of preventing and treating multidrug resistant TB
- 3. Improved knowledge about malaria symptoms and 100% of Rwandans will be sleeping in mosquito net and implement measures of combating mosquitoes. The malaria mortality rate will be reduced to 1% especially in children less than 5 years and pregnant women.

What barriers might hinder the success of your project? How do you plan to overcome them?

Because of experience and methodology in those activities we don't expect to face many obstacles but however, there are some of them that we may face.

- 1. We may not find sufficient interviews in documentary production. Some of people giving interviews are public officials like ministers, we may miss them or find them very occupied; in order to overcome it, and we will contact them so early and ask them the day where they are free.
- 2. The project volunteers are students, there may be coincidence of class with project activities; in order to overcome this problem we recruit

volunteers from all 6 years and as the schedule of the faculty show only 2 years have class at the same time and other 4 are free.

The project is working since 2010 and there no harmful obstacle met.

Winning entries present a strong plan for how they will achieve and track growth. Identify your six-month milestone for growing your impact

Provide sufficient information regarding HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria to 4,567,987 Rwandans, and Advocate those subjects.

Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your six-month milestone

Task 1

Production and screening of documentary film about HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria according to groups of people in 15 districts

Task 2

Conduct teaching sessions in more vurnalable groups on HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria

Task 3

Creation of advocacy teams according to target groups and start advocoay with taget to province level.

Now think bigger! Identify your 12-month impact milestone

Halt HIV and TB transmission rate to 2% & 3% respectively and reduce malaria mortality rate to 3.5%. Halt effects of those disea

Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your 12-month milestone

Task 1

Production and screening of documentary film about HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria according to groups of people in 30districts

Task 2

Conduct Teaching sessions through media especially radios, TVs and news letter;create a learning website about HIV/AIDS, TB & Ma

Task 3

Conduct advocacy with target to national level especially ministries, parliament and national health commissions & institutions

Sustainability

Tell us about your partnerships

The project has partnership with Danish Youth Council (DUF) and MTV-Staying Alive Foundation. DUF give us 80% of the budget and MTV-SAF fund a particular activity of HIV/AIDS activities in soldiers. Partnership with DUF is 5 years that may be increase twice (10 years) and for MTV-SAF is for 4 years. DUF help us in searching other partners in Denmark that may help us to expand our activities and they always find them every semester; SAF is concentrating on capacity building of volunteers through international trainings. we have other 35 partners that give us materials rather than money

Are you currently targeting other specific populations, locations, or markets for your innovation? If so, where and why?

our project is mainly implimented in southern province of Rwanda, the first big province but containing poor people considering to others and consequently they face many health problems than others; we are targeting groups that are vurnalable than others as explained in previous questions. groups are chosen after the research and show that they are at risk of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria; this help us to make all Rwandans equal and also reach those that think that isolated. the province has 8 districts and we have activities in all of them.

What type of operating environment and internal organizational factors make your innovation successful?

The first one is:

1. In MEDSAR, we have a serious board directors that is helpful as indicated above
2. The volunteerism is also well developed in MEDSAR
3. Team work has also a significant step in MEDSAR

on the other hand MEDSAR have patrons that is faculty of medicine and National University of Rwanda (NUR), those are big people in Rwanda health and when we face any challenge we approach them and we ask them for help, they always help us in giving recommendations and other documents, they also help us to publish our findings; this is why our advocacy get success than expected; NUR is the national university and it control all other universities it has branches in all districts of the country; MEDSAR work as NUR NGO and we have rector recommendation of carrying our activities

Please elaborate on any needs or offers you have mentioned above and/or suggest categories of support that aren't specified within the list

capacity building. we want that you help us in capacity building of volunteers and we will also support other initiatives in it.