

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Legacy of War Foundation

#WYJMKBWWB9 submitted on 19 April 2023

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

We are seeking funding to establish two new climate-smart agricultural cooperatives in Gasabo District, Rwanda. We will partner with two groups of 30 destitute women over 5 years, supporting establishment of profitable farms which will mitigate the impact of climate change, promote peacebuilding and provide food security for local communities. The women will share their skills/knowledge, reaching a further 640 community members. This grant would fund the tools and training needed to establish the farms.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

In Rwanda, volatile weather patterns are damaging harvests, contributing to chronic malnutrition. Since 80% of Rwanda's female labour force work in agriculture, women could play a major role in climate action. Yet many women are struggling to rebuild their lives after the atrocities of the genocide. Inequalities in access to agricultural resources hold women back, leaving them trapped in a cycle of poverty and highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Land for Women (LFW) is an innovative agricultural programme which raises society's most destitute women to landowning status, enabling them to establish profitable, climate-smart farms. We provide land, agricultural inputs, 65 days of training and 5 years of support. 60 women living in extreme poverty (genocide survivors, HIV positive, victims of gender-based violence) will be the primary beneficiaries of this project, which will also directly benefit 640 community members. When she retires, each woman passes on her land share to a female family member, benefiting ongoing generations of Rwandan women.

We are the only NGO to take this bold step of gifting land permanently to farming cooperatives of women. Peacebuilding and climate action require long-term strategies: it can take decades to regenerate ecosystems and realise benefits of agroforestry and soil conservation; cycles of conflict perpetuate from one generation to the next. Land ownership enables a unique intergenerational approach where positive outcomes become embedded and continue to accrue as they are passed from one generation to the next. LFW is taking trailblazing action to reverse the neo-colonial narratives prevalent in the NGO sector, by placing the most valuable financial resource for sustainable development (land) firmly under the control of local communities in perpetuity.

As landowners, LFW farmers gain raised social status in their homes and communities, facilitating a shift in gender power dynamics and a reduction in gender-based violence. Their new sense of agency inspires women to take leadership positions on the farm and in community associations, contributing to the development of peaceful networks and positive social capital. Economic empowerment of women is a cornerstone of peacebuilding; as UN Director Bahaus states, "countries where women are economically marginalised... are much more likely to go to war."

LFW already supports 58 Rwandan women farmers and our climate change mitigation and food security strategies work: during the drought of Oct/Nov 2021, which destroyed crops across Rwanda, our farmers maintained steady crop production and reliable incomes.

Outcomes:

Climate change mitigation:

1. 60 women gain knowledge of climate-smart farming practices resulting in: protection of environment; climate resilience; regeneration of soil, wildlife and ecosystems; reforestation; preservation of indigenous trees.
2. Land ownership results in a highly effective, intergenerational approach to environmental stewardship.
3. Training in wider community results in 40 farmers outside the co-operatives adopting climate-smart farming techniques.
4. Soil conservation reduces emissions and promotes carbon sequestration.

Adaptation of food systems to the climate crisis:

5. 60 women farmers, 240 family members and 10 additional destitute families (40+ people) gain food security and improved nutrition. 320 women/mothers in the wider community trained in optimum nutrition practice.
6. Climate-smart farming achieves higher levels of productivity and diversification of crops (and animal products) promoting food security resilience to climate shocks.
7. Post-harvest processing and value addition provides long-life food reserves stored in womens' homes for stable nutrition during climate shocks / lean season.

Peacebuilding:

8. Economic empowerment of women results in economic growth, political stability, and social transformation contributing to a more rapid recovery from conflict.
9. Positive adjustments in gendered power relations reduce gender-based violence.
10. Land ownership and climate action unites rural communities; competition over land tore communities apart during the genocide.

Olive is one our LFW farmers - this is her story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUkVcUKJNC4>.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

- B - Peace-building and conflict resolution
- D - Climate change mitigation

1.3b Peace-building and conflict resolution

Land scarcity fuelled the socioeconomic crisis which sparked Rwanda's genocide: the majority of genocidal perpetrators were landless and disadvantaged. We support Rwanda's peacebuilding journey by uniting Rwanda's rural poor communities in landownership, now and for generations to come. We enable women genocide survivors to rebuild their lives, regaining dignity and economic security.

1.3d Climate change mitigation

LFW farms mitigate impacts of climate change through: soil conservation; crop rotation; biodiverse ecosystems; organic farm practise; crop diversification; terracing in hilly areas to prevent soil erosion; risk and recovery planning; early-warning weather systems; agroforestry for windbreaking and flood control; rainwater harvesting for irrigation during drought. Resilient food production systems and robust income streams are founded on sustainable land management.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

Rwanda (RW)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

LFW is a 5-year project. We have a comprehensive schedule of funding applications in place which we are confident will achieve full funding. The 5-year project concludes with a graduation ceremony and

legal transfer of land ownership to the cooperatives, marking the end of the formal partnership between each cooperative and LFW management. Thereafter, the LFW cooperatives have all the skills and resources they need to continue their work independently for generations to come.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

LFW farmers have continued support from our Rwandan LFW agronomist. The women share seasonal reports (3 per year) and LFW carries out annual evaluations with key indicators designed by the women themselves. In year 3 an external evaluator will produce an Impact Report. The 5-year farm business strategies are designed by cooperative members with our support, setting out goals, milestones, timelines, and activities against which we work with cooperatives to evaluate project progress.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Purchase of 2 x plots of farm land	£86,000	
FARM SETUP - equipment, tools, land preparation, water harvesting, greenhouse, farm storage/creche/meeting space	£16,312	
HORTICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK INPUTS	£21,072	Note that funding for all inputs is provided as a loan which the women will repay through years 2–5. Each woman's share of the input loan comes to £346. Each woman will repay £7.20 per month for 4 years, totalling £86.50 per year per woman, a repayment of £2,595 per farm per year, totalling £10,380 per farm over 4 years. Therefore the loan for inputs will be fully recouped by the end of year 5 and will be folded back into the project account throughout the programme duration in order to cover management and administration costs.
EDUCATION/TRAINING COSTS - 64 training days per woman farmer (each training day: 4 hours of practical farm work, 90 mins group study, 90 mins training of trainers)	£26,400	
SUPPORT SYSTEM - creche to reduce burden of care + psychosocial support	£12,380	
PROJECT RUNNING COSTS - management, administration, monitoring & evaluation	£18,500	
TOTALS	£180,664	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Input loan repayments: £10,380 per farm to be repaid in yearly instalments x 4	£20,760	£20,760	Note that funding for all inputs is provided as a loan which the women will repay through years 2–5. Each woman's share of the input loan comes to £346. Each woman will repay £7.20 per month for 4 years, totalling

			£86.50 per year per woman, a repayment of £2,595 per farm per year, totalling £10,380 per farm over 4 years. Therefore the loan for inputs will be fully recouped by the end of year 5 and will be folded back into the project account throughout the programme duration in order to cover management and administration costs.
Grant for purchase of 2 x plots of farm land	£86,000	£86,000	Grant secured.
Project grants	£73,904	£30,500	We have £43,404 left to raise for this project.
TOTALS	£180,664	£137,260	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£5,000

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£298,632

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

No

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Legacy of War Foundation

00099448

40-52-40

3.1 Your name

Sarah Robinson

3.2 Your contact telephone number

07866 750821

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Fundraiser

3.4 Your email address

sarah@lowf.org

3.5 Organisation name

Legacy of War Foundation

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

UK charity

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

Founded in 2017 by journalist Giles Duley, a triple amputee who was injured after stepping on a landmine when reporting on the war in Afghanistan, Legacy of War Foundation is a UK-based organisation providing support to people affected by conflict. We empower individuals and communities to rebuild their own lives after the trauma of war, providing tools, training, education and other support to enable our beneficiaries (partners) to shape their own futures.

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

Adelaide House
23 Grand Parade
ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA
TN37 6DN

3.9 UK telephone number

01424257688

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

1174792

3.11 Year established

2017

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<http://www.legacyofwarfoundation.com>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

https://twitter.com/Legacy_of_War

<https://www.facebook.com/legacyofwarfoundation/>

<https://www.instagram.com/legacyofwarfoundation/>

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

theedithmellischaritabletrust.org

Word of mouth