

Usagara Garbage Alert Project [UGAP]

Theme Fund Project # 303, 18-19

May 2019 Update

In January 2019, The Marquis Project submitted a proposal to the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation [MCIC] in partnership with long-time partner the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension [TSAEE] in the Lake Zone. In March 2019, MCIC approved funding of \$10,000 through the MGMGP Theme Fund. The theme for 2018 to 2020 is “Sustainable Urban Centres: Meeting People’s Needs in an Urbanizing World”. The current pattern of rapid and often unplanned growth of urban areas presents governments, civil society organizations and the private sector with urgent challenges that require innovative, participatory, gender-responsive and egalitarian approaches and solutions.

Usagara Garbage Alert Project [UGAP] is meant to prepare community leaders through awareness creation on improved handling of household garbage. The project will alert the community about what is coming in the near future when managing garbage will be an even greater issue than it is now. This project would integrate environmental awareness with strategic planning for household waste management by promoting public awareness and participation in environmental matters at the community level.

The project will focus on the following key areas:

1. Public engagement and awareness creation with community people in Usagara and Fela through participatory theatre about waste management
2. Sorting of waste during a defined period
3. Data collection on waste produced in a sampling period
4. Composting
5. Crafts and jewelry making with re-purposed waste materials
6. Awareness building within local government leaders through seminars and workshops
7. Development of a strategic plan

The innovation in this project is the creation of a new collaboration between TSAEE professionals, community and local government authorities to develop a strategic plan to address a local issue. Participatory theatre will be used as a mechanism for building residents’ awareness of the harmful effects of uncontrolled waste management. The actors are youth who will also educate their peers. The involvement of crafters will build on past TSAEE experiences of group support to entrepreneurship and fair trade. The involvement of gardeners will build on past TSAEE support in training on vegetable production, and soil improvement through compost-making. The development of a plan that will address the financial aspects of future waste management is also innovative.

Marquis raised the required 10 percent levy through support from another of TSAEE’s long-time partners -the Canadian Agricultural and Rural Extension Society [CARES]. CARES voted in 2018 to dissolve itself and to donate its remaining funds to The Marquis Project.

The project launch took place in Usagara at the end of April 2019.

The Theme Fund is a portion of the Manitoba Government Matching Grant Program (MGMGP) to MCIC. The Government of Manitoba has generously supported international development through the MGMGP since 1975.