

YOUTHGLOBE D-PRIZE PROPOSAL

I. Introduction

Burundi has a GDP per capita of \$600. Many girls grow up as orphans or in families struggling to find money to feed themselves, let alone pay for school fees. Less than \$30 is enough to put a Burundian student through a year of high school. This gives YouthGlobe the opportunity to be an incredibly cost-effective platform for donors to make an impact on as many lives as possible. With additional support, our scholarship program has the potential to provide schooling to thousands of Burundian girls, allowing them to give themselves the opportunity to move beyond poverty. YouthGlobe uses education to inspire the next generation of Burundian leaders, and the opportunity to bring the wonders of the classroom to an entirely new audience excites us immensely.

II. Who We Are

YouthGlobe was founded in January 2013 with the goal of improving the lives of young Burundians and inspiring them to lead their communities toward sustainable development. Dire circumstances in Burundi galvanized our founders to take action. Civil war ravaged the country from the early 1990s to 2005—in the nation of around 10 million, over 300,000 died. The war orphaned tens of thousands of children, and many orphans are now at high school age, unable to pay for education. To address this great need, we provide full secondary school scholarships along with programs in community service, leadership development, and entrepreneurship training designed to prepare Burundian youth to lead their country forward. In our first nine months, our staff has grown to over thirty volunteers spread throughout Burundi, South Korea, and the United States. With a limited budget of less than \$5,000, we have supported one hundred Burundian students with scholarships and have reached out to an additional two thousand students through our development programs.

III. The Problem We Want to Solve

Discrimination against girls in Burundi causes inequitable access to education. As school fees are low and the demand for girls' education is high, a plan to help Burundian girls enter and complete high school would have a profound impact on individual girls, their communities, and the country as a whole.

IV. Our Plan

YouthGlobe currently selects scholarship recipients from six partner high schools in different regions of Burundi. Due to limited resources, we only select schools that operate in areas with high concentrations of orphans who cannot access school on their own. Most of our scholars have just returned home from refugee camps in Tanzania and are finding ways of reintegrating into their local Burundian communities. Our goal is to expand and partner with more schools. Given more resources, we will aim to sponsor qualified students at well-performing high schools to maximize the chances of our scholars succeeding. School headmasters partner with our selection staff to choose deserving scholars based on the following criteria:

- Candidates must demonstrate that school fees pose a significant obstacle to continued enrollment in school.

- Candidates must demonstrate good character.
- Candidates should demonstrate interest in making a difference in the local community, either through participation or leadership in clubs, movements, or other activities.
- Candidates must demonstrate academic potential.
- Candidates who have lost both parents have their applications weighted.

Through the D-Prize we will scale up our scholarship model to reach a greater number of adolescent girls who would otherwise face gender discrimination in accessing education. We currently support our scholars out of our own budget, but with support from the D-Prize, we will have the necessary funding to push for donor support for our scholars through an internet campaign. The web development can be done easily in-house at almost no cost since YouthGlobe members have the necessary experience, and the grant money can be used to purchase better web hosting services.

We will also ask each scholar to write a short autobiography, including her background, age, and academic and extracurricular interests. The profiles will be translated into English and Korean and displayed on our website. D-Prize funding would allow us to produce high quality videos about our scholars' lives in and out of school, giving donors an opportunity to better connect with scholarship recipients. We have the ultimate goal of facilitating correspondence between the donor and the scholar he or she supports.

It costs roughly 30 USD per year to sponsor a Burundian student. This includes both book and meal fees. Burundi's underdeveloped economy allows sponsors in developed nations to make a large impact at a relatively low cost. Consequently, we have comparatively low administrative costs. The overhead costs, including larger items such as office space, can be shared among other YouthGlobe programs, allowing us to direct D-Prize funds almost entirely towards our Girl's Scholarship Challenge plan. YouthGlobe's existing infrastructure gives us an advantage over less well-established organizations.

YouthGlobe recognizes the societal benefits of emphasizing girl's education, but we are reluctant to limit scholarship assistance exclusively to girls. YouthGlobe already sponsors boy scholars, so we have an obligation to support them through their entire secondary education. In addition, it is important for us to foster the next generation of leaders among the Burundian youth, and for that reason we target both the girls and boys in greatest need to receive quality secondary educations and achieve their potential.

V. Our Targets

We plan to utilize our existing infrastructure to immediately implement our plan of action if we receive funding. Our position as a team based in the USA, Burundi, and Korea enables us to simultaneously work on multiple aspects of the initiative. We aim to:

- Identify 100 additional girls to bring into the YouthGlobe scholarship program within a month of initiating the program (using our 6 school partnerships and YouthGlobe Burundi team as a base).

- Receive autobiographies from each scholar within three weeks of selection.
- Create the girls' online profiles (photos, bios, videos, etc.) within two weeks of receiving autobiographies (USA team creates profile, Burundi team provides necessary information).
- Begin searching for more scholars as soon as we have identified our first hundred.
- Begin a fundraising and awareness campaign through social media as soon as the first girl's profile is online.
- Explore potential partner schools in the first month of the initiative.
- Form partnerships in the second month of the initiative.
- Expand to 100 girls and 12 schools within three months.
- Scale to 500 girls within 6 months, 2000 girls within 12 months, and 10,000 girls within 24 months.
- Facilitate correspondence between scholars and donors within 6 months.

VI. Summary

YouthGlobe presents a proven model for reaching out to Burundian youth in need. We are established enough to both manage a cost-effective, large-scale scholarship program and minimize overhead costs. At the same time, our potential for growth allows the D-Prize to make an enormous impact on Burundian girls.