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Micro economic project for the support of Orphans
First progress report

I. Background

Burundi Orphan Relief (B.O.R) is a Project initiated by Tom Moher, executive director, based in USA/Florida, in collaboration with a local team in Burundi led by Pastor Delphin Sula an MD/MPH.
The main objective of the B.O.R project is to support the Burundian orphans and build their capacities for self reliance and self sufficiency. The B.O.R project is operating in partnership with Maranatha Mission church of Burundi. Dr Delphin Sula is the senior pastor of Maranatha Mission church in Burundi.

The partnership between Maranatha Mission church and the Ten Dollar club started in 2006 when the Ten Dollar club granted Maranatha Mission church a $3,340.00 (US$) funding for a micro-economic project in titled " *microfinance project in Rumonge commune in Bururi province of Burundi*". The goal of this micro-economic project was to build the capacity of local farmers to engage in small business activities related to the processing and selling of palm oil.
As result of the Ten Dollar club grant, 100 peasant farmers (who have their own community palm oil farm) were trained and were able to reap substantial profits from their plantations. This resulted in improved opportunities for economic growth for their families and the community in general.
Unfortunately, the existing palm oil trees are less productive due to their advanced age (survivors from the colonial period of Burundi). The government of Burundi started a policy to replace all the old palm oil trees with a new, improved variety. Despite an abbreviated (2 years) harvest, Maranatha Mission church was able to generate an acceptable ROI from the palm oil activities of the 2006 microfinance project by the Ten Dollars club. A total of 6000 U$ were generated by the palm oil project. The income generated from that project was reused by the Maranatha Mission church to:

- Buy 2 properties of 1 hectare each (1 in Bujumbura Rural at a cost of 3000 U$ and 1 in Bururi province in Nyanza Lac commune at the cost of 1000 U$.). A small church was built in each of the 2 places, and agricultural activities are implemented in each of the 2 properties to support vulnerable women particularly widows in the 2 provinces. The two properties will provide the basis for continued income generation and community development for local farmers. In each of the agricultural sites, a group of 10 women, mostly widows, cultivate crops (onions and cassava).

Production of the crops are sold and 90% of the income is shared between the women of the association to support their basic household need, and 10% of the production contribute to support the local church activities

- 2000 U$ were used to supported 10 of the poorest women and widows in Bujumbura city and 20 of the poorest women and widows in Nyanza-Lac commune (mostly the returnees from refugees camp in Tanzania) to start their own small business. Each beneficiary was supported with a cash of 100 US$ for beneficiaries from Bujumbura and 50 U$ for beneficiaries from Nyanza-Lac.

The actual micro economic project to support orphans is co-funded by the Ten Dollars club ($3,400.00 U$) and donors of B.O.R ($3,100.00U$) for a total of $6,500.00 U$ budget. The objectives of the BOR 2010 micro economic are:

1 To work with an association of poorest women and widows of Bujumbura Rural province enabling them to improve their income generating capacity and increase their purchasing power. The goal is long term self sufficiency for these women and their families.

2. To contribute to effort of the Burundi Orphans relief's support to orphans in Bujumbura town.

II. Key Activities:

The planned key activities of the micro-economic project are the following:

1) Set up a store, managed by the association of the 50 poorest women in Bujumbura Rural, selling basic needs for households.

2). Set up a store of veterinary and agricultural products managed by the association of poorest women in Bujumbura Rural.

3). Support and train the association of 50 women in Bujumbura Rural to cultivate basic food crops: maize, beans, and amaranths.

4) The project will also initiate a clothes making shop that will work to produce and sell clothes and contribute to support the BOR with the generated income from the selling of clothes.

Work plan

	Activities	Timeframe							
		Apr - June 2010	Jul - Sept 2010	Oct - Dec 2010	Jan – Mar 2011	Apr – June 2011	Jul - Sept 2011	Oct - Dec 2011	Jan - Mar 2012
A	**Set up a cloths making shop**								
1	Selection of professional seamstress								
2	Renting a house for the clothes making shop								
3	Purchasing the equipment for the cloth making shop								
4	Clothes making in the shop								
5	Training of orphans in sewing								
B	**Set up a store for basic needs for households:**								
1	Construction of the store								
2	purchase store equipment								
3	Supply products for the store								
4	Train the sellers								
5	Begin (and continue) activities of the store								
C	**Set up a selling point of agricultural products**								
1	Renting a house for the agricultural products store								
2	Purchasing store equipment								
3	Supply products for the store								
4	Train the sellers								
D	**Cultivate basic food crops**								
	Train the farmers								
	Purchase farming material								
	Purchase seeds								
	Begin agricultural activities								

III. Activities progress

Overview

Activities are progressing well according to the work plan. However, some challenges slowed down the starting step of the planned activities, particularly the issue of changing the leadership of the Burundi Maranatha Mission church.

A. Set up a clothes making shop

A team of 3 professional seamstresses will be formed. They will be in charge of making clothes for selling and training orphans (who are beyond school age) in sewing techniques.
The B.O.R team is working to find a house to rent for the clothes making project. 50% of the income generated by the clothing shop will be used to support the BOR activities.

B. Set up a shop for basic need for household

A house has been rented in the Gatumba commune of Bujumbura Rural province to function as a store for basic household needs. Gatumba is a commune of Bujumbura rural surrounding Bujumbura town. Previously, it was planned to build a small house for the store, but after detailed analysis, the team find that the cost for the construction of the store was prohibitively expensive, so the team decided to rent a small house for the store. Store equipment and supplies have been purchased; the store keeper has been selected and trained. The store opened during the month of August 2010.
Agricultural activities are planned to be implemented in the agricultural season starting with the 4th quarter of October – December.