



Featured grantee for July 2016

## Development in Gardening (DIG)

Batwa Women Breaking the Cycle of Poverty & Food Insecurity



*Dining for Women*



Changing the world one dinner at a time

# Introducing DIG



**Development in Gardening enables vulnerable and HIV-affected communities to meet their own needs and improve their well-being through nutrition-sensitive and sustainable agriculture. In this project, the goal is to break the cycle of poverty, malnutrition and oppression of the Batwa communities by supporting Batwa women to become more self-reliant through sustainable agriculture initiatives.**

# Where in the world?

This project covers Kabale District, Uganda – near Bwindi Impenetrable Forest bordering Rwanda, Uganda, and DRC. Uganda is located in East Central Africa, west of Kenya, east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



# What are we supporting?

DIG will provide experiential training in sustainable agriculture, nutrition, improved cooking practices and business record-keeping to break the cycle of poverty and food insecurity among Batwa women.



# The project

DIG will develop three community demonstration gardens and 400 women-led home gardens directly benefitting 400 women and indirectly benefitting more than 1,200 women and girls and 800 men and boys in their families. This project will empower Batwa women to become self-reliant and to support their families. The objectives are to improve nutrition, economic wellbeing, food security and to empower Batwa women.



# Life Challenges of Batwa Women

The creation of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda forced migration of the indigenous Batwa people off their native land resulting in increased oppression, food insecurity, extreme poverty and poor health outcomes for the Batwa. The Batwa women and girls are some of the most marginalized people in Africa. They have been devastated by extreme poverty, sexual exploitation and substance abuse.



# Life Challenges of Batwa Women

The Batwa have suffered some of the most severe health outcomes and fall far below the average health outcomes of typical Ugandans: Life expectancy is 28, compared with a Ugandan average of 53, and the 38 percent of Batwa children die before the age of five, compared with a Ugandan average of 18 percent. Average annual income is \$25, compared with a Ugandan average of \$420.



# Budget

**How Dining for Women's grant of \$42,100 will be used over one year:**

<b>Item</b>		<b>Total</b>
Materials and gardens	Water tanks (3), 400 home gardens, demo gardens, training materials	\$18,100
Personnel	Salary for project coordinator and stipends for local facilitators	\$14,850
Travel expenses	Transport, lodging, food allowance, travel insurance	\$8,700
Miscellaneous	Visas, incidentals	\$450
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$42,100</b>

# About the Organization



Since its inception, DIG has specialized in promoting gardening and diet diversity in health facilities, schools and local households in African communities. Working in the area of sustainable agriculture, DIG has achieved significant results from its programs in nearly a dozen countries. Its mission has remained true and unwavering: enabling vulnerable and HIV-affected communities to meet their own needs and improve their well-being through nutrition-sensitive and sustainable agriculture.

# Share Your Thoughts



*Dining for Women*

- What do you think about the conflict between the need to preserve endangered species and the needs of the indigenous people in the region?
- How do you think the combination of building gardens and training the Batwa how to develop and cultivate them will empower Batwa women?
- Why is it important that Batwa community leaders are involved in providing oversight and ownership?