DAVIS PEACE PROJECT PROPOSAL
Title: Water 4 Peace
Eric Iradukunda ‘17 & Simone Schmid ‘17, Dartmouth College
Partnering Organization: Mission4Water
Location: Nyugatare, Rwanda
Dates: Mid-June - August 2016

BACKGROUND
Growing up in the small village of Rutare in Rwanda, the only source of water for Eric was the river that ran through the neighbors’ farms. He and his brother would wake up early in the morning to collect water from the river before the neighbors woke up since the young boys were not permitted to trespass their territory. At times, they got caught, forcing his family to pay fines in order to avoid conflict with their neighbors. Considering that it was only a few years after the genocide ended, trust was still nonexistent among most people.

Today, that same river is still the main source of water for the community, and people continue to have disagreements about who should get water from what part of the river. Children still make long walks to collect the water for their homes before they go to school. What is worse, the water is not clean enough for domestic use, let alone for drinking. On average, 2,000 children in Rwanda die every year from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation (WaterAid). In Rwanda’s 2015 health census, 12% of children under the age of five experienced diarrhea within the two weeks preceding the survey, demonstrating the continued need of access to adequate water sanitation.

PURPOSE OF PROJECT
Our goal is to promote peace by means of health, fair accessibility, and community dialogue among villagers; water is a crucial connecting piece for these intertwining systems. Actuating a sustainable-water-access site near the village that the community members can call their own through personal construction, maintenance, and distribution will begin the first steps towards collective accord. The villagers and we believe that a clean water system will catalyze local level empowerment, positive change for self-governance, and more even distribution of a vital resource. Furthermore, it has the potential to facilitate peaceful interactions between neighbors by removing territorial disputes. Moreover, changing the water supply will bring peace to a community permeated with water-caused infectious diseases that prevent many members from improving their health and standard of living. We hope to bring the means of peace to a community that desperately needs it.

MOTIVATION
For Simone, whose goal is to join the Peace Corps, the immediate response to the suffering of others is to take action. After being exposed to the grand disparity of wealth and resources in the boroughs of New York City to the pueblos of Spain, she hopes to combine her urgency for positive change with her realistic organizational skills to provide an access point for healthy living in Rutare.

As evident, this project hits close to home for both Eric Iradukunda and Simone Schmid. The two have a deep passion for enacting long-lasting, attainable change in people’s lives. To balance out roles, Simone will primarily serve as the project manager. Her experience in planning curriculum for elementary and high school students as well as designing campus wide events will have prepared her well for this task. Eric will handle communications between villagers, the partnering organization, and community leaders. As students of interdisciplinary subjects, International Studies and Neuroscience respectively, we have been taught to be persistent and to think innovatively about problem solving, proving us ready and willing to make this plan as successful as possible.
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IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTION STEPS:
Mission4Water is a Christian NGO that has been providing clean water to Ugandan villages since 2010. In the fall of 2011, Eric volunteered with this organization for several months, during which he helped build community wells and boreholes, a staple project for this NGO. As a result of this experience, Eric became close to Sunday G. Augustus, the Executive Director and Water Engineer of Mission4Water. Sunday is committed to providing joy and health to people through the use of clean water. That passion has driven him to use simple, inexpensive, and viable technological methods to accomplish this goal. Sunday is supported by the adept Finance Director and Project Manager, Sue Morgan, as well as the skilled and dedicated Drilling Team, composing a “family” as they prefer to call themselves. Based on this experience and their mission, we hope that our partnership with Mission4Water in their first project in Rwanda will be successful in providing sustainable access of clean water to the people of Rutare.

The Rutare village consists of about fifty homes. With an average of seven to eight people per home, there are approximately four hundred individuals who need access to clean water. First, the project consists of surveying the land with community leaders to find the most appropriate place to build a water pump. We plan to have Mission4Water’s team and local volunteers engage in the construction of this apparatus. The pump will be connected to a two-tank system that accumulates the water and then filters it before distribution. The water will then be distributed to families through jerry cans. This pump and water tank project would reduce the long ten kilometer trek to get water from the unclean river. As children are typically the ones who obtain the water, due to the new nearby source of water, the children can now spend more of their time focusing on school and their household.

SUSTAINABILITY
The women in this community are the most affected by shortage of water because they are directly responsible for domestic work. In the past, some women worked in small cooperatives to increase their farm produce. We intend to work with them to ensure continued success of the water-tank system by helping them create a small-scale corporation for buying and selling water. However, in order for them to be successful, we hope to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between community leaders and these female leaders. The details of whether they should start a new cooperative to manage this project or work within an existing cooperative will be worked out with them. That being said, we are confident that many of the women in the community will embrace the project since they have already expressed interest in promoting community health and growth.

TIMELINE

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<tr>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>March to Mid-June 2016</td>
<td>Devote 5-10 hours per week doing research on what would be the best business plan for the village, involving dialogue with experts and NGOs in the field and Rutare village leaders, reporting our progress to our on-campus advisor, Kenneth Bauer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-June to Aug. 30, 2016</td>
<td>Work with the Mission4Water’s Team and volunteers to assess the land and to install the pump, tank, and filtering system. Form and develop a business plan for selling water with a village group. Run trials pertaining to business function.</td>
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<td>Sept. 2016</td>
<td>Check in regularly to record effects of project.</td>
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