



Miller Center

for Social Entrepreneurship

Name of social enterprise: Development in Gardening (DIG)

Mission statement: DIG is improving the nutrition and livelihoods of the world's ultra-vulnerable by teaching them to plant sustainable gardens that grow health, wealth, and a sense of belonging.

Webpage: www.DIG.org

GSBI 2019 business plan presentation:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlqpquBJtEI&list=PLTFApFZek1zpzFm6ysUIA3xZBXOimGDxz&index=16)

[v=FlqpquBJtEI&list=PLTFApFZek1zpzFm6ysUIA3xZBXOimGDxz&index=16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlqpquBJtEI&list=PLTFApFZek1zpzFm6ysUIA3xZBXOimGDxz&index=16)

Headquarters: Atlanta, GA

Location(s) of research: Rodi Kopany – Nyanza Province, Kenya; Kabale District, Uganda; Ziguinchor, Senegal

Prior engagement: Two 2020 Global Social Benefit Fellows worked with DIG on several projects, to be posted January 2021.

Regardless of the pandemic, the fellowship will run in 2021. We have designed 2021 action research projects to be conducted via remote engagement (e.g., via Zoom) without the immersive component of travel to the field. All applicants should enter and proceed through the application process with the assumption that no international field placements are currently planned. For more information, please attend a GSBF info session.

Background: DIG's project sites in Kenya, Uganda, and Senegal can be representative of most rural/peri-urban areas in developing countries that are challenged with issues around food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty and climate change. DIG teaches ultra-poor and marginalized people to raise food for themselves and to sell locally. DIG promotes a diversity of food crops, some local African and some introduced through demonstration training sites and provides training to communities to create farming business plans that meet their unique household needs. DIG seeks to incorporate information around access, growing conditions, cultural culinary preference, markets, and more of each crop variety by through documenting the local, tacit knowledge of its local staff and incorporate this into a dynamic database. This knowledge would be used for improving DIG's farming training education programs, starting with its nutritional education. This database will evolve into an information infrastructure, which would to support the expansion of DIG's training to other regions, and to support the adaptive capacity of its local farmers and foster climate resilience.

The challenge: Continue to build out the database of local and introduced crop varieties by collecting information from DIG staff and other project staff, and a plan for expanding this into a dynamic information infrastructure to support enhanced programming and scaling to reach more beneficiaries.

Action research products needed:

1. An enhanced guide to local plants, articulated with nutritional information.
2. A plan for developing this database into an informational infrastructure that will support the enterprise as it scales.

Student skills needed: agroecology, sustainable agriculture, database management, nutrition, data storage and sharing.

Keywords: local agroecological knowledge, traditional agricultural knowledge, knowledge formalization, information infrastructure.

