

## **Mariya Arafasha, Burundi**

### **Brief Description**

#### **1. Programmes**

MARIYA ARAFASHA (FMA) is a humanitarian organisation that was founded to help disadvantaged groups, in particular street children, orphans and other people in need. Its vision is to create a reconciled, and just society that lives in solidarity, where peace and tolerance flourish, and families can live in dignity. FMA tries to make this vision a reality through three programmes: a "Social Programme", a "Programme for Peace and Reconciliation", and a "Programme for Education and Development".

##### **1.1 Social Programme**

This is a programme to support disadvantaged groups, such as, orphans, street children, widows, an ethnic minority known as the Batwa, the disabled, etc., to become re-integrated into the socio-economic process, and hence to set out into a better future. At present this programme has three operating projects: the Girizina Project, the Gikumuvyeyi Project and the Koriciza Project.

##### **1.2 Programme for education and development**

With this programme FMA wants to contribute to the field of education in order to overcome ignorance and poverty. It wants to promote technical and professional training and in this way contribute to high-quality education based on Schoenstatt's pedagogy. At the moment the programme does not have a functioning project, but is in the process of planning a training centre for artisans (CEM).

##### **1.3 Programme for peace and reconciliation**

The programme consists of introducing projects to promote dialogue, mediation and reconciliation, in order to promote reconciliation and a culture of peace. The Giramahoro project is the only working project in this programme, although at present the funding is lacking.

##### **1.4 Goals of the Mariya Arafasha Foundation**

- To support the socio-economic reintegration of disadvantaged groups through making them independent;
- To promote education and health in general;
- To promote positive values such as, reconciliation, truth, solidarity;
- To fight poverty and enable people to build up a better life for themselves.

## 2. Current Projects

Four projects are mentioned: the **Girizina** project; the **Girumuvyeyi** project; the **Koriciza** project, and the **Giramahoro** project.

**2.1 The Girizina Project** (You have a name!) serves the re-integration of street children into society and the family. The project accompanies these children through a number of specific activities in the fields of psychology, schooling, the spiritual life and material needs. It helps them to find their original families and tries to improve relationships through repeated visits and meetings, and in this way to enable them to re-integrate into their biological families. In addition, all the children are registered with a school, and most of them achieve good results. Many are chosen to be the class representatives.

**2.2 The Girumuvyeyi Project** (You have a family member!) was designed to offer educational and health care support to orphans, who have lost their parents to Aids, or through the war that for a decade laid waste the whole of Burundi. While primary schooling is free, this does not apply at the secondary level. Street children are no longer in a position to continue their studies and need financial support to do so. The Girumuvyeyi project helps them to pay for study materials, school fees and health services. At present more than 170 students are supported by this project and can look forward to a better future.

**2.3 The Koriciza Project** (Set up a good initiative!) improves the living conditions of poorer families through creating sources of income that fight poverty. The Koriciza project achieves this with two projects: One in support of disadvantaged women who are trained as seamstresses, and the second in support of school dropouts who are trained as woodworkers. The project runs a tailor's workshop and a carpenter's workshop that produce various items. The income from the sale of these items helps the disadvantaged groups and people.

**2.4 The Giramahoro Project** (That you may have peace!) promotes various activities leading to peace and reconciliation. Through arranging concerts, educational seminars and workshops for healing psychological trauma, through accompanying the traumatised spiritually, and through sport and cultural activities, the Giramahoro project offers Burundians an opportunity to practice and live tolerance, mutual affirmation and acceptance, and peaceful co-existence.

### **3. Funding requirements**

#### **3.1 Specific needs and planned activities of the projects**

##### **3.1.1 Girizina Project**

- Help to build proper housing for the original or foster families of the street children;
- To initiate sources of income from agriculture and livestock farming for the original or foster families.

##### **3.1.2 Girumuvyeyi Project to**

- To help pay school fees for needy students'
- To help needy students to buy study materials and uniforms;
- To help pay for the health care of needy students;
- To help families to find a source of income that will lift them out of poverty.

##### **3.1.3 Koriciza Project**

###### **3.1.3.1 Carpenter's Workshop** to train school dropouts:

- To acquire materials and equipment for the workshop;
- To supply the workshop with planks and beams;
- To guarantee the costs of food, health services, and transport for the students;
- To secure initial funding for a small joinery for the students after they have completed their training.

###### **3.1.3.2 Sewing workshop** for training disabled young women:

- To equip the workshop with sewing machines, tables, chairs, irons, etc.
- To equip the workshop with sewing supplies;
- To ensure the costs for food, health services and transport of students;
- To provide initial funding for young women who have completed their training.

##### **3.1.4 Giramahoro Project**

- To organise national and international concerts for peace and reconciliation;
- To organise singing and dancing competitions that illustrate the themes of peace and reconciliation;

- To organise sports tournaments for youth that are dedicated to reconciliation;
- To organise work and solidarity camps for youth during the long vacations;
- To train local representatives and leaders in the methods of peaceful conflict resolution;
- To organise workshops and the exchange of experiences for the representatives of youth groups;
- To organise the spiritual and psychological support of traumatised people;
- To initiate peace clubs and open them to all;
- To start a musical academy to promote the musical culture in Burundi;
- To start the cultural centre Amahoro to promote and maintain peace and reconciliation;
- To offer young people training in informatics and modern communications media.

### **3.2 For directing the Mariya Arafasha Foundation**

- Increasing its capacity: The conception and planning of projects, project management and drawing up reports ...;
- Supporting the institution: Staff salaries, health care of staff, cross-country vehicles, equipment for the office (computer, printer, copier, etc.);
- Data processing equipment in order to enable young people to profit from what is on offer from new media technologies;
- Providing music and scores for putting on concerts;
- Equipping a library;
- To start a music studio to help talented young people to produce their compositions cheaply.