

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:

**Implementation of the DAFI Refugee
Scholarship Programme in Rwanda**

The purpose of this *Call for Expression of Interest* is to identify and – on the basis of responses received – select a prospective or existing partner to implement the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) Scholarship Programme on behalf of UNHCR Rwanda. The partner will handle the day-to-day activities related to the management and implementation of the programme and provision of support to students.

UNHCR Rwanda is looking for a partner that could deploy a staff member as a DAFI project coordinator to communicate with the various stakeholders involved and to provide institutional expertise, as needed.

Interested organisations are kindly requested to prepare an open statement of interest by **15 August 2013** including the following brief information:

- History, mandate, structure and principle activities of the organization
- Education-specific expertise in support of the implementation of the Programme
- Motivation Letter
- Possibility to allocate own resources to complement UNHCR support

For additional information on the selection process, please see the end of this document.

Project title and Identification	Project Location
DAFI Tertiary Scholarship Programme for refugee students	Rwanda

Brief background of the project

Rwanda is currently hosting over 73,000 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since April 2012 when fighting broke out in the eastern DRC, over 36,000 new refugees from DRC have been registered in Rwanda.

The majority of refugees in Rwanda live in four camps: in Kigeme (newly established camp), as well as in Gihembe, Kiziba and Nyabiheke camps (which hosts refugees who mostly had arrived in Rwanda in the 90s. In addition, a small number of urban refugees reside in the capital, Kigali. The precarious security situation in the DRC limits these refugees' prospects for return, many of whom have resided in Rwanda for over 15 years.

UNHCR and its partners are committed to improving learning outcomes and making lifelong learning accessible for all persons of concern: encompassing early childhood education, primary, secondary and higher education. These objectives are outlined in the global UNHCR Education Strategy 2012–2016.

Tertiary education enables refugees to live productive lives and to become economically self-reliant. The possibility of accessing tertiary education motivates young people to complete secondary schooling, which has a similar impact on the demand for primary education. Graduates become role models for their respective communities, particularly young refugees.

The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Programme (DAFI) provides scholarships for more than 2.000 refugees in 40 countries to study at universities and colleges in their host country.

Financed by the Government of Germany, DAFI has been and remains a unique opportunity for refugees to continue higher education. Through scholarships for university education, DAFI contributes to the search for durable solutions under UNHCR's mandate and has provided vital support towards the reconstruction of conflict-affected countries.

In this fiscal year, over 60 refugee students in Rwanda benefit from the DAFI scholarships at Bachelor and Master levels, out of which 56 students were newly selected in 2012. Selection for 2013 intake is expected to take place in September 2013.

Goal of the project and expected outcome

The overall objectives of the DAFI programme are:

- **To develop qualified human resources** in order to contribute to the reconstruction of the country of origin upon return;
- **To empower them become self-sufficient** and employable with respect to their qualifications wherever they reside;
- **To provide role models** for refugee students in primary and secondary schools and encourage particularly refugee youth to aim higher

To achieve the objectives above, the following activities will be undertaken:

DAFI Programme management:

- Submission of annual proposal to UNHCR Rwanda.
- Timely reporting including monitoring of students' achievements and distribution of funds to students and universities.
- Advocacy for funding and visibility and liaison with universities and other stakeholders to increase students' possibilities for internships and employment.
- Identification of additional financial support and enhanced visibility for the programme.
- Participation in the medium-/long-term planning of the programme with linkages to other education and related activities.

DAFI Programme implementation:

- Coordination with UNHCR and the National Universities in the student selection and enrolment process.
- Follow-up on the payment of scholarships and administration of students.
- Compliance of all activities with DAFI guidelines and procedures.
- Engagement with the Higher Education Council and other relevant institutions.

Provision of support to students:

- Provision of psycho-social, academic, and orientation counselling to current and future students.
- Establish closer linkages with secondary education for identification of potential new intakes as well for advocacy purposes.

- Develop linkages between current and alumni students, UNHCR, Donors, National Universities, Potential Employers, and the Private Sector Representatives in support of social and professional development of the students.
- Support student initiatives as well as involvement in their communities.
- UNHCR Rwanda provides the oversight and guidance to all activities to the extent necessary, particularly in relation to strategic direction of the programme management and development.

Population group/persons of concern

The populations of concern to the DAFI Programme are socio-economically disadvantaged and academically deserving and talented refugee students.

Project Period: Estimated start and end dates of project

Starting in early September 2013 until December 2014, with a possibility of renewal depending on performance and evaluation.

Submission deadline (date open, date closed)	Date results to be communicated to applicants
From 5 – 15 th August 2013	28 th August 2013

Selection criteria

<i>Tick Box of relevant criteria</i>	Criteria Description
	<p>Organizational expertise and experience in education project management and capacity building, self-reliance and employment programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project coordinator should have demonstrated ability to foster networks and engage refugees and persons of concern, and build trust and long-term partnerships with various stakeholders. • Thorough knowledge of the Rwanda education system and familiarity with cross-border education and regional tertiary education system is a plus.
	Project management: ability to deliver project objectives, accountability, Timely Monitoring and Evaluation, and sound financial management taking into account prior UNHCR rules and regulations.
	Contribution of resources to the Project in expertise, or in-kind (e.g. human resources, supplies or equipment) to supplement UNHCR resources
	Cost effectiveness: administrative and financial burden imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables
	Experience working with the United Nations

Selection procedure:

A signed statement of interest shall be delivered as a hard and electronic copy to Francois Abiyingoma at UNHCR Rwanda by Friday 15th August 2013:

- Postal address: UNHCR Representation Office in Rwanda, P.O.Box 867, Kigali, RWANDA
- Email address: ABIYINGO@unhcr.org

For any further information, please contact Francois Abiyingoma: Tel. +250 788 304 918