

# Livestock for Widows

*INSPIRE!africa's goal is to see that each of the 270 families living in the community of Kabuga, just outside Kigali, receives one goat.*

**INSPIRE!**  
**africa!**

[www.inspireafrica.org](http://www.inspireafrica.org)

**Giving livestock is an efficient and effective way of lifting a family out of poverty.**

**A gift of \$40 towards a goat gives widows a supply of protein to feed their families, fertilizer for their crops and a modest income.**

**A cow costs \$2,500. This special cow produces 10 times more milk, enough for the widow's family and the local community.**



After the Rwanda genocide, many women were left as widows and without a means to support themselves, their surviving families and the orphans in their care. Many women were raped and are now HIV positive, and they struggle to earn sufficient money to provide for their families.

By donating a goat or a cow to a widow of the Rwandan genocide you will transform her life. Goats and cows will go to a household that currently barely survives by subsistence farming, despite their best efforts. Giving livestock is an efficient and effective way of lifting a family out of poverty. In the words of one widow, "You gave me hope when I had none. Thank you."

A gift of \$40 towards a goat gives widows a supply of protein to feed their families, fertilizer for their crops and a modest income. Goats are very productive as each goat can be bred twice a year and will produce 2-3 kids each time. Therefore the gift of one goat can provide 4-6 more goats each year. The widow can sell any goats she does not need to feed to her family. This will provide her with a modest income to purchase food, basic supplies, medicines or pay for school fees or uniforms so her children can attend school.

INSPIRE!africa's goal is to see that each of the 270 families living in the community of Kabuga, just outside Kigali, receives one goat. During INSPIRE!africa's recent visit to Rwanda, we met with the widows of Kabuga and donated 17 goats. They were very appreciative of our gift and one of the widows said to us: "Now you are a part of our family, when we see you it makes us very happy. May God bless you!"

The gift of a cow is also a significant way to lift a family out of poverty. A cow costs \$2,500. The cost is high because the cows are a mix of two breeds; one high producing breed from the UK and a local breed to provide immunity to disease. The benefit is a cow that produces 20 litres of milk per day versus only 2 litres from a traditional African cow. This special cow produces 10 times more milk, enough for the widow's family and the local community. A cow allows the whole community to have access to protein and nutrients needed for good health and growing children. It also provides the widow's family with a modest income.

During INSPIRE!africa's recent visit to Rwanda, we donated a cow to a widow and her family and we were invited to the cow's naming ceremony. The cow was named Imanzi which means jewel: something very precious but strong at the same time. It was very clear how much the cow meant to the family and how it would make a significant difference for their future.