



2019: Year in Review

PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

SURF (Survivors Fund)

Solar Lights

- In 2019 we provided funds for 30 households.
- These lights allow survivors, particularly the elderly to socialize in the evening, rather than going to bed at sunset (around 6pm), charge cell phones, allow children light to do their homework, eliminate the need for costly kerosene or candles and eliminate risk of fire or hazardous smoke.

Entrepreneur Microfinance Loans

- Since its inception in 2012, INSPIRE!africa has supported the training of youth in entrepreneurship and business skills.
- INSPIRE!africa provided \$32,000 towards a loan program for youth who had attended the Youth Entrepreneurship Training Program and submitted a successful business plan.
- As of June 30, 2019, a total of 22 young entrepreneurs received loans. These youth are required to pay back the loan in installments over 12 months with interest of 10% pa. The loans are broken into two parts based on the nature of the business; some received the full loan amount while others received installments.
- In 2019 SURF provided additional business training to entrepreneurs in the areas of tax, bookkeeping and business development.

Vocational Training Program

- Children born of rape do not qualify for government funding offered to youth survivors to attend university, even though they are the most vulnerable population. This is because they were born after the genocide ended.
- For the past 2 years, INSPIRE!africa has targeted their vocational training funding towards children born of rape. Most of these youth are raised by single mothers and do not have the means to pay for school fees.
- In 2019, INSPIRE!africa funds provided training for 13 students to attend vocational training in various disciplines including culinary arts and hospitality, hairdressing, shoe repair, electronics, mechanics as well as Film and Television.
- The cost of attending a vocational training program is only \$700 including travel to school and school materials.

Housing

- Many people had their homes burned to the ground or stolen during the genocide. After, houses were built for survivors but because they were built so quickly many are in terrible shape and in desperate need of repair. But renovations are very expensive. Even those with jobs cannot afford the \$1,500 to \$3,000 needed to renovate a home.
- With the help of INSPIRE!africa, 3 houses were rebuilt this year

Helpline

- INSPIRE!africa has been supporting the Helpline since it started in 2013 as a pilot project supported solely by I!a.
- The Helpline provides support primarily to young genocide survivors currently in secondary school or university who have challenges related to legal issues or mental health. This program has been particularly successful in settling claims for family property which was taken after parents were killed during the genocide.

Legal cases related to land reclamation received in 2019.		36 cases have been received this year
Counselling cases received		26 counselling cases were received
Counselling cases supported		13 beneficiaries were supported with individual counselling
Follow up cases	Some beneficiaries require regular follow-up support.	9 beneficiaries need follow up support

Student sponsorships

- INSPIRE!africa has been supporting youth who were orphaned from the genocide to complete their secondary education and attend university.
- So far, 15 of the 18 that we have supported since 2008 have graduated. We will continue to support the remaining 3 until their studies are complete.
- INSPIRE!africa is not accepting any new students, rather we are supporting vocational training for youth.

Solace Ministries

Livestock for Widows

- I!a supports widows with livestock which provides them with a modest income to pay for food, medicine and everyday items. It also provides them with companionship and a purpose. In addition, beneficiaries contribute a percentage of their profits from the livestock to a micro-credit loan program that others in their communities can access.
- In 2019 we donated the following:
 - 57 pigs to 62 survivors
 - 46 chickens to 23 survivors

Days for Girls

- INSPIRE!africa is acting as a fiscal sponsor in support of the Tujoyembere Women's Cooperative which is now a certified Days for Girls enterprise thanks to our volunteer, Eveline Goodall.
- This Kigali based cooperative sews and sells Days for Girls reusable menstruation kits for women and girls so they no longer have to miss out on work or school during their periods.
- For more information, see their website: <https://daysforgirlskigalirwanda.org/>

Fundraising Activities

13th Annual Fundraiser - INSPIRE!africa Pub Night – November 14, 2019

- This year we raised \$87,000. This is the second time for the pub night format and it was very successful. We sold crafts from Rwanda at the African Market, held a silent auction, and served pub food with a cash bar.
- Our keynote speaker this year was Melchior Cyusa, president of the Rwanda Canadian Society of Calgary. He spoke about his experience during the genocide as well as his impressions of Rwanda, then and now. Melchior was 9 years old at the time of the genocide and came from a family of 12. He lost 7 family members during the first week of the genocide and said that survival was a daily miracle during the 100 days of killing.

Volunteer Trip to Rwanda

- A 2020 trip is being planned.
- Volunteer trips typically run every 2 years.

Primates a Go Go

- This is an online company created and operated by Merrill Genereux, and long time volunteer and supporter of INSPIRE!africa. Primates a Go-Go provided many of the Rwanda crafts at the African Market. Proceeds from sales at the fundraiser went directly to INSPIRE!africa projects in Rwanda.

Board Updates

- The Board held a Strategic Planning session in May 2019. This meeting included the Board as well as Alix MacDonald. It was facilitated by Karla Reesor who kindly offered her services pro bono.
- The Board notes that this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

2019: [Link to financial report](#)

