



OCTOBER 2021 NEWSFLASH

Fundraising in 2021 – A Different Year, A Different Approach

As mentioned in the June newsletter, we have decided **we will not have a big in-person or on-line fundraising event this fall**. Rather, we are asking that you make your annual donation anytime before the end of 2021. This just seems like the right thing to do, for many reasons. We believe this is the most economical and safest way for us to support Rwanda's survivors. We know we have a strong base of compassionate and understanding donors, and we hope we can rely on your continued support.

Please make your donation using any of the methods listed in the chart below. We will continue to provide you with information on what life is like in Rwanda and how our projects are doing, so you will know how your donations are making a difference.

Coming Soon! Our ever-popular **African Market will be available online** again this year November 1 – December 31. As usual, most items are from Rwanda or East African countries. Pictures, payment process and pick up details will be available soon. Stay tuned!



Pick How You Want to Donate

	Fee to INSPIRE!africa	Monthly Donation Option	Tax Receipt Issued from	Notes
e.transfer to info@inspireafrica.org or send cheque to 102- 520 Cedar Cres SW, Calgary, AB T3C 2Y8	None	No	INSPIRE!africa – *see note below on sending an e.transfer	You can allocate your donation to one of our projects: helpline, vocational training etc.
Paypal Giving Inspire!africa	None	No	Paypal Giving	You must have or create a Paypal account
Canada Helps inspireafrica- foundation	4% of your donation	Yes	Canada Helps	This option is best if you want to set up monthly donations and specify where you want your donation to go to.

Note regarding e.transfer:

- In the space for a personal message, include your e-mail address and what program you would like your donation to be applied, if applicable.
- Recipient's email address is info@inspireafrica.org.
- Security Question - say "What is the password I sent you?" then send us an email with your password to info@inspireafrica.org. Please include your name, mailing address, and phone number in your email for your tax receipt.

COVID-19 and Rwanda

Like everywhere in the world, Rwanda has been affected by COVID-19 and its restrictions. Thankfully there has been a recent drop in infections, so the Rwandan government has started easing restrictions.

Vaccinations have begun, giving hope to Rwandans as it has to Canadians. According to Our World in Data, Rwanda is significantly ahead of the other East African countries.

Rwanda has a target to fully vaccinate 60% of its population or 7.8 million people by 2022. Currently, Rwanda is 20% of the way to their target. So far, more than 2 million Rwandans, including 1.5 million who are fully vaccinated, have received the vaccine. The efforts made in vaccinating people have significantly reduced the positivity rate from 10% in July and August to 3% in September. A vaccine manufacturing plant is planned to be built in Rwanda, which will help provide vaccines not only for Rwanda, but also to other African countries. This will assist Rwanda in achieving their target.

A Word from Our Partner: Survivors Fund (SURF)

Our Rwanda partner organization Survivors Fund continues to make a huge difference in the lives of many survivors with your donations to INSPIRE!africa. Today we will share how your donations are supporting survivors through the COVID-19 pandemic.

You are Supporting Survivors with Livestock

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions to businesses and job losses, resulting in increased poverty. The poorest and most vulnerable suffer the most. With your donations towards COVID Relief, SURF provided goats to those in need, which helps to increase income by selling the offspring. This revenue has enabled them to cover basic expenses of their families, start small businesses, as well as get fertilizer to increase their crop production.

Through the support of INSPIRE!africa, 40 families in the Eastern Province of Kiziguro have received goats to help them get through the impacts from COVID restrictions.



You are Supporting Survivors to Improve their Mental Health

The telephone-based legal and mental health counselling Helpline has now expanded to include 3 additional Helplines and 48 peer support counsellors. These additional Helplines were funded by a separate donor. SURF is very grateful to INSPIRE!africa for initiating the legal and counselling helpline. Our support of the first Helpline helped them prove to other donors that telephone legal advice and counselling works.

The Helpline project peer support counsellors are selected based on the recommendation of the leaders in the communities they come from. They have received training in active listening which is a key to positive outcomes. During the COVID lockdown and after, the Helpline funded by INSPIRE!africa has helped 269 people.

A Story of How the Helpline Makes a Difference

Bernard is 41 years old and lives in the southern province of Ruhango district. During the genocide against the Tutsi he was 14 years old. He saw many terrible things during the genocide but cannot

forget seeing the perpetrators raping his mother and killing her. Afterwards, another group came and raped her after she was dead. After the genocide, as many survivors are, he was traumatized and was living in difficult conditions. He now lives with PTSD and depression and suffers from flashbacks and debilitating feelings of hopelessness and isolation.

During the genocide commemoration period this spring Bernard was at home alone and needed someone to talk to but it was not possible to visit friends due to COVID restrictions. He resorted to listening to the radio and heard about the Helpline through a radio ad and decided to call for someone to listen and assist.

The Helpline counsellor started helping him through telephone therapy. Due to what he saw during the genocide, Bernard had decided to remain single his whole life, but through counselling from the Helpline, he changed his mind and now has a fiancée. After attending counselling sessions, he said that something has changed for him. He started farming and thinking about the future. He has a cow and grows bananas. He is starting to get his life back. **That is how your donations are making a profound difference!**

A Word from One of Our Donors: Jae Cowie

When did you go to Rwanda with INSPIRE!africa and what do you remember most about your trip?

I was fortunate to visit Rwanda on the trip in 2018. One of my strongest memories is of a conversation with Sam Munderere, from SURF, as we traveled to one of the genocide memorials. He was telling us about how the children of rape were not eligible for assistance from the government as they were not "survivors". He told us how many of their mothers had told them their fathers had died during the genocide. The children often found out the truth through other members of their village and had to deal with the fact that their real father was one of the perpetrators of the genocide. The crippling mental health effect on both mother and child is hard to imagine.

Why do you continue supporting survivors by donating to INSPIRE!africa?

This memory is one of the main reasons I support the work of SURF through INSPIRE!africa. The Helpline initiative is critical to getting Rwandans the mental health support they desperately need. In addition, many of the young people that we support to take Vocational Training are these children of rape.

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Take Care

COVID-19 reminds us how connected we really are to each other. We are all in this together. Take care of yourself and each other, and stay safe.