



January 2022 Newsflash

Thank You! In 2021 You Donated \$48,000!

Our fundraiser total for 2021 was \$48,000! Thank you so much to everyone for their commitment to Rwanda's survivors! Although this amount is less than what we have raised in recent years, we are very pleased considering the challenging times we are in and the fact that we weren't able to have an event this year. It demonstrates to us that we have a strong committed donor base and we are very thankful for your continued commitment.

This year we could not provide funding to all the programs we have supported in the past. Rather, we prioritized the allocation of your donations based on the most pressing needs as identified by our Rwanda partner organization, the Survivors Fund (SURF) and any programs specified by our donors. This year your donations will go towards the trauma and legal counselling Helpline, the youth vocational training program and the provision of livestock through SURF's COVID relief program.

We have our fingers crossed that we will be able to host an in-person fundraiser in November 2022 and that we will be back on track to continue our support for the other programs such as housing renovation, solar lights and the youth entrepreneurship loan program.



Students attending an electrical class as part of the Youth Vocational Training Program.

2021 Donation Tax Receipts

We will issue tax receipts via email for all 2021 donations over \$20 before February 28, 2022. If you do not receive your receipt by that time, just send us an email;

info@InspireAfrica.org.

Update from our Partner Survivors Fund

This quote from David Russell, the UK Coordinator for the Survivors Fund (SURF) is a reminder of how important it is to continue to support Rwanda's survivors.

"Generating interest in Rwanda becomes more challenging as the events become more distant. Even though genocide happened some time ago and the country has

largely rebuilt itself, there is still a real pressing need for support for the most vulnerable, marginalized survivors that don't have access to assistance.”

Why we Support the Helpline

INSPIRE!africa has been supporting the Helpline, a toll-free telephone counselling service since it started in 2013. In fact, INSPIRE!africa was instrumental in the establishment of the Helpline since we funded it initially as a pilot project. At that time, toll-free telephone support systems did not exist in Rwanda, even though helplines like Canada's 'Kids Help Phone' had been in operation since 1989. Initially the Helpline focused on providing trauma and legal counselling to youth in Rwanda. Now it has expanded to support any survivors in Rwanda needing help.

Here is a story of Nadine (not her real name) who sought support through the Helpline. Nadine is a 36-year-old woman with two children. She does not know who her father is. Her mother died when she was a baby and she was raised by her grandmother. In 2015, Nadine was married to a much older man but soon she became very unhappy as he would treat her like a child and was not faithful to her. Recently, she had the courage to leave with her children and return to live with her grandmother.

Because she had left, her husband took no financial responsibility for the family, so now she was in a dire situation. She became very anxious and was experiencing nightmares, chronic headaches and other symptoms of PTSD. She attempted suicide by mixing a number of drugs, but thankfully one of her children was able to intervene in time. Nadine then contacted the Helpline and the Helpline counsellor was able to provide the supports she needed. The counsellor contacted the husband, and after some conversations, he agreed and is now taking responsibility for the family. Nadine was also able to get the medicine she needed to reduce her anxiety and the other physical symptoms she was experiencing. The Helpline counsellor continues to follow-up with Nadine and she and her family are doing much better, thanks to the Helpline.



Donations

We accept donations at any time of the year. Check out our website for details. <https://www.inspireafrica.org/how-to-help>.

COVID-19 and Rwanda

Rwanda is affected by COVID-19 just as we all are, and we are very happy to report that vaccinations continue. According to Our World in Data, as of December 28, 2021, 40.94% of the population are fully vaccinated, and 16.53% of the population are partially vaccinated.

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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.



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