

INSPIRE!africa 2021 Review

Welcome to the 2021 Year in Review

Below is a summary of projects that we supported and our other activities this year. Please refer to [INSPIRE!africa website](#) for more detailed descriptions of the projects.

Solar Lights

- In 2021, 6 solar lights were given to 6 families who can now safely carry-on evening activities such as cooking, school work and socializing. Many survivors living in remote communities don't have access to electricity so they rely on paraffin candles to light their homes. Paraffin is expensive and the smoke is a health hazard, especially to the elderly. In addition to saving the cost of paraffin, these lights also charge cell phones, which everyone in Rwanda relies on.

Entrepreneur Microfinance Loans

- 25 youth received business loans in the first half of 2021. More are being supported for the second half of the year. Ange, a youth who received a loan said; *"I am happy today because of my business which is progressing well. I was born out of rape and my mother could not afford to meet all my needs. Survivors Fund helped to pay for the high school and after that life started becoming so hard. I*



approached Survivors Fund and they helped me (through INSPIRE!africa donations) to start a small business of liquor shop with a loan. I am confident that I will pay them back and get more loans to expand my business. This business is helping me to cover all the expenses at home as my mother has no job, and our only sources of income is through this business."

- These youth are required to pay back the loan in installments over 12 months with interest of 10%. The loans are broken into two parts based on the nature of the business; some received the full loan amount while others received installments.

Vocational Training Program

- 12 second generation survivors received vocational training in trades such as mechanics, tailoring, hair dressing and construction. Joselyn is attending training to be an auto mechanic. She has told us; *“I do not know how to express my feelings, I got pregnant when I was in secondary school and immediately I dropped out, as I could not be able to continue my studies. My baby boy is now three years of age. Before joining this vocational training, I attempted to commit suicide several times, as I could not see any future with my baby. With the help of INSPIRE!africa, Survivors Fund helped me to come to school and now I am doing really well in automobile engineering with confidence of getting a job after school. I feel that my future will be bright, for both my son and me.”*
- For the past 3 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.
- 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.
- The cost of attending a vocational training program is only \$700 including travel to school and school materials.



Housing

- 2 families had their houses renovated. One of the beneficiaries was Laurence who said; *“I am extremely happy to-day for this house, I had a very old house and it was not like a house, because when it rained we could not stay inside fearing that any time it might fall down and the iron sheets (roof) would blow away. I am very happy that I will no longer have to look for accommodation from my neighbors. I am going to be stable and start thinking to start a small business generating income to help me feed the family as I am the head of household of the three children”*.
- After 27 years of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, survivors are still facing the issues of shelter. Some of them have no house while others are facing the challenge of old houses which were built in the emergency period after the genocide, and have no durability. From the picture, this is an example of one of the houses

which needed to be renovated as they have become very old. Even those with jobs cannot afford the \$1,500 to \$3,000 needed to renovate a home.

Before



After



Helpline

- Hundreds of youth benefited from the mental health counselling support offered through the Helpline. INSPIRE!africa provides funding for one of 4 helplines supported by SURF that reach callers across the country. During the Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda period, April 7 to July 4, the lines staffed by counselors respond to over 2,000 calls.
- In addition, \$126,000 in land value was recovered thanks to the legal support from the Helpline. Youth were able to reclaim their family's land which was taken during the genocide.
- Josephine received legal assistance and the final paperwork is being prepared to transfer the family land to her and her sisters. Josephine said; *"I don't know how I can express my feelings. This process started many years back, and sometimes we got traumatized due to this process, and most of the time we wanted to give up but other people kept encouraging us to continue. We believe that once we get back this land our life will change for the better. We will be able to use the land for farming."*
- INSPIRE!africa has been supporting the Helpline since it started in 2013 as a pilot project supported solely by INSPIRE!africa.
- By providing legal and counseling support services countrywide, the Helpline has filled a necessary gap in support for vulnerable young survivors suffering from trauma or outstanding legal disputes. This is one of the only free and accessible services for young survivors who are incapable of affording to take their legal cases to court, or they lack the confidence or ability to find someone to talk to about a mental health issue.

- The need for the Helpline continues to provide a vital service during lockdowns related to COVID-19 and as a result, assisting any survivor in need of counselling or legal support.

COVID Relief



- Through our partner, Survivors Fund (SURF), 40 families from the Eastern Province of Kiziguro sector received goats, which will help beneficiaries to increase their income by selling the offspring of the goats, and start small businesses or cover the expenses of their families.

Livestock for Widows

- Donations supported the following livestock purchases for survivors:
 - 18 piglets
 - 5 big pigs
 - 14 goats
 - 240 chickens
- INSPIRE!africa 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.

Fundraising Activities

15th Annual Fundraiser – Due to the continuing risks related to COVID-19 and other factors, the Board of Directors decided not have an in-person or formal on-line fundraising event in the fall and instead initiated a fundraising campaign focused on reaching our loyal supporters with an appeal to make their annual donation to continue

to support INSPIRE!africa projects that are making a difference in the lives of Rwandans.

We were so pleased to raise a total of \$48,000. 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.

As the funds raised were less than previous years, we prioritized the allocation of donations based on the most pressing needs as identified by our Rwanda partner organization, the Survivors Fund (SURF) and any direction given to us by a donor when they made their donation.

Volunteer Trip to Rwanda

- Once the pandemic is over and international travel resumes, the feasibility of a volunteer trip will be considered.

Board Updates

- The Board continues to receive regular updates from SURF on the projects INSPIRE!africa is supporting. We continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 in Rwanda and the projects that we support recognizing that the needs and issues have increased due to the pandemic.
- The Board increased the ways to contribute to the Foundation to include: ATB Cares through the Benevity platform, Paypal Giving Fund and Facebook Fundraisers. The website was updated to include links and descriptions of the ways that donors can make a contribution to the Foundation.
- The Board notes that this year marks the 27th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

In a year where resources were tight for so many people, we are very grateful for our loyal and new supporters who enabled INSPIRE!africa to achieve these results.

2021: [Link to financial report](#)