

## INSPIRE!africa 2020 Review

### Welcome to the 2020 Year in Review

Below is a summary of projects that we supported in 2020. Please refer to [INSPIRE!africa website](#) for more detailed description of the projects.

#### Solar Lights

- In 2020 INSPIRE!africa provided funds for solar lights for 40 households.
- 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

- 24 youth survivors received loans in 2020. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we have heard that the businesses created by these youth are doing very well.
- 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

- In 2020 INSPIRE!africa funds supported 50 youth to attend vocational training in the areas of; car maintenance, culinary arts, tailoring, hair dressing and auto mechanics
- The youth receiving this training support where primarily children born of rape.
- For the past 3 years, INSPIRE!africa has focused its 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. Also, they 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 \$700/per student and includes travel to school and school materials.

## Housing

- Three houses were renovated in Komonyi district and their owners were very happy to have new houses.
- After 26 years, there are still survivors who are homeless and many whose houses require renovations. But renovations are very expensive. Even those with jobs cannot afford the \$1,500 to \$3,000 needed to renovate a home.



Before



After

## Helpline

- In 2020, 387 cases were received by the Helpline. The overwhelming majority of these cases are related to PTSD, anxiety, depression and grief.
- 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.
- This program has been particularly successful in settling claims for family property which was taken after parents were killed during the genocide. To date the estimated value of land that has been reclaimed by young survivors is over \$1 million US.
- The need for the Helpline has grown this year due to COVID-19 and as a result, the Helpline has expanded from serving only genocide survivors attending school, to any survivor in need of counselling or legal support.

## **COVID Relief**

- In April this year, INSPIRE!africa learned of the significant impact which the COVID-19 lockdown was having on survivors and the Rwandan government's inability to meet the demand for basics such as food. An appeal was made to INSPIRE!africa donors to provide emergency COVID-19 relief to survivors. We received \$4,500 in donations.
- These donations enhanced the Help Line by providing cell phone cards to 25 peer support counsellors so they could respond to the emotional and legal needs of survivors from their personal cell phones as they couldn't go into the office. These 25 counsellors were hired to supplement the regular staff who were overwhelmed during the early months of the pandemic.
- In addition, funds were also used to provide food hampers to 30 of the neediest survivors so they had something to eat during the lockdown period.



## **Student sponsorships**

- INSPIRE!africa has been supporting youth who were orphaned from the genocide to complete their secondary education and attend university.
- This year INSPIRE!africa completed sponsorship of the final 3 of the 18 students we have supported since 2008.
- INSPIRE!africa is not accepting any new students, rather we are supporting vocational training for youth.

## **Livestock for Widows**

- Donations supported the following livestock purchases for survivors:
  - 139 Chickens
  - 11 Piglets
  - 2 Pigs
- 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. 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.

## **Days for Girls**

- INSPIRE!africa continued to act as a fiscal sponsor in support of the Tujyembere Women's Cooperative with their 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**

**Appeal for COVID Relief** - As mentioned above, INSPIRE!africa solicited donations from supporters in an April newsletter when we learned about the significant impact which COVID-19 was having on survivors. **We received \$4,500 from that appeal.**

**14th Annual Fundraiser** – INSPIRE!africa annual fundraiser moved on-line in 2020. COVID-19 restrictions meant that we had to be creative and with the help of some talented videographers both here and in Rwanda as well as a singer from Manitoba and some local story tellers our annual fundraiser became a production. The production is available on our website. Around the time of the fundraiser, we put our popular African Market on-line. Crafts from Rwanda were available for purchase through our website and FaceBook page

- **The fundraising event was a success raising \$68,000.**

## **Volunteer Trip to Rwanda**

- A Volunteer Trip to Rwanda was offered for Spring 2020, however we did not have enough participants to run the trip. As it turned out, we would not have been able to go due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Once the pandemic is over and international travel resumes, the feasibility of a volunteer trip will be considered.

## **Board Updates**

- The Board was planning to host Sam Munderere, CEO of the Survivors Fund, in Calgary in April, 2020 as part of the Rwandan Canadian Society of Calgary commemoration of the 1994 Genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda event. We were pleased to be partnering with the local commemoration planning committee in planning the event. Unfortunately, both the commemoration event along with Sam's trip to Calgary were cancelled due to the pandemic.

- The Board notes that this year marks the 26th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.
- The Board moved the INSPIRE!africa website to a new hosting platform and thanks to Anthony (TJ) Simmons the site has been updated to a new format that allows for easier updates. Many thanks to Luna Duell for her many years of hosting the site, making updates and sending out the INSPIRE!africa newsflashes.
- Heather Knorr has stepped into the newsflash production role and the newsflashes have been regularly sent out via Mail Chimp this year.

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.

## **2020: Link to financial report**