The issues

In the remote southern Rwandan highlands, people are farming very small plots of land often on steep slopes with poor soil. People in this area struggle to feed their families and have no reliable income.

The local area is good for growing coffee, which is an important cash crop for the community. However, many people are only able to grow small amounts of coffee and the quality is often poor, leaving them unable to lift themselves out of poverty.

Jean-Baptiste and Dina (pictured) try their best to grow food on their small plot of land. They have some coffee trees, but disease has destroyed much of their crops. This has left them with nothing to sell.

Vegetables and meat are luxuries eaten very sporadically during the rainy season. The family mostly survives on beans and flour, which they have to buy. They were forced to sell the livestock they had invested in so that they could buy food to feed their baby, Nadine.

The family have now joined the coffee and cows project and are working hard to create a brighter future for their children.

How Send a Cow helps

Send a Cow’s frontline staff provide families with practical training in sustainable farming and business skills.

By introducing simple farming techniques such as mulching, tree planting and composting, families can improve damaged soils and boost their yields of coffee, fruits and vegetables. This will help people like Jean-Baptiste and Dina to maximise their crop production so they can feed their family and earn an income.

“Our greatest achievement is our new family harmony” - Jean-Baptiste

Cows and goats are provided for the poorest people, giving them a vital source of manure which they can use on their land. Alongside this, families are trained in how to care for their animals so that good milk yields can provide essential nutrition for the family and an additional source of income.