



Focus: Climate Resilience

Location: Rwanda

Project: Greening Girinka East

People supported:

62,400

Cost:

£812,500

(£13 Per Person)

Duration:

3 Years

(April 2019 – March 2022)

Where we're working...



Bugesera

Ngoma

The issues

In Bugesera and Ngoma districts, families' main source of income is agriculture. However these areas are highly susceptible to climate change, with drought threatening food production.

Water is often scarce, affecting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Meanwhile mothers like Olive (pictured) have little access to disease and drought resilient seeds, which help ensure sufficient nutrition for their families and their livestock in an unstable climate.

In 2006 the government of Rwanda introduced the Girinka programme to address rural poverty and malnutrition. By providing families such as Olive's with a local dairy cow, the programme aims to give them the ability to secure their own futures from the land.

However, a lack of training in how to care for their livestock sustainably has resulted in low milk production and high greenhouse gas emissions. Poor animal management is compounding the impacts of climate change through greenhouse gasses, deforestation and over-grazing. Poor natural resource management and chemical fertilizers are extending the dry season and contributing to soil degradation. There is a desperate need for sustainable livestock and resource management in the area to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change.

How Send a Cow helps

Send a Cow is working with vulnerable farmers to build their resilience to climate change & reduce their environmental impact.

Send a Cow will introduce people to sustainable farming practices that will increase productivity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resource management, helping them to adapt to a changing climate and unpredictable weather patterns.

"My first child had malnutrition... because of drought we didn't have a balanced diet but these new techniques have helped us." - Olive

Forage planting methods will improve animal feed practices and increase milk production while agroforestry, mulching, composting and manure management will increase soil quality, leading to better harvests and better nutrition. Rainwater harvesting will help people to withstand longer periods of drought and make the most of the resources around them.

We will work alongside the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture to write these practical solutions into policy. This research can then be scaled up and replicated in other parts of Rwanda.

Before working with Send a Cow

Dairy cows emit **3.8** kg of CO₂ per litre of milk produced

Expected impact of the project

Dairy cows emit **2.4** kg of CO₂ per litre of milk produced*

* as part of a farm system that sequesters carbon



Olive and her husband Thacien