The ONE COW PER POOR FAMILY Program (Girinka) IN RWANDA

This program is among home grown initiatives geared at poverty reduction and particularly through fighting malnutrition. The Government of Rwanda started the ‘One cow per poor family program” or Girinka in 2006 with the initiative spear headed by His Excellency the president Paul KAGAME. In this program, a farmer is given an in-calf heifer and is obliged to pass on to the first female offspring to another program beneficiary who is selected by local administration authorities and validated by MINAGRI/RAB.

GIRINKA PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Fight malnutrition and more so from children and gravid mothers (the cow provides milk for family consumption as a fight against malnourishment)
- Increase crop productivity (the cow produces manure that is used to increase crop production)
- Increase house hold incomes through surplus milk sales.
- Promote social harmony/cohesion (the family passes on the first heifer to the next and in the Rwandan culture giving and receiving a cow from someone builds a strong bond of friendship)
Girinka beneficiary selection criteria

- Must not be owning a cow and vulnerable in the community
- Be owning land ranging at least from 0.25 to 0.75 Ha
- Must be ready for training in basic animal husbandry practices (nutrition, breeding, housing, disease control and management practices)
- Must be credible in the locality and be able to practice the basic animal management practices

A happy family in One Cow per Poor Family Program in Rwamagana district

**SOURCE OF ANIMALS**

- Girinka decentralization
- Various institutions (Government, NGOs both Local and International ones, Private institutions and individual contributions)
- RAB ad hoc purchases
There are other local initiatives which are traditions of the Rwandese people organized by farmers themselves that include (*KOROZANYA*) which is a donation in the Rwandan culture where a person donates a cow to another one.

### Number of families that received cattle since Girinka program inception

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kigali City</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>2850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>1,384</td>
<td>3,567</td>
<td>6557</td>
<td>8962</td>
<td>3038</td>
<td>2207</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>27268</td>
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<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>1,561</td>
<td>5,028</td>
<td>8,924</td>
<td>9779</td>
<td>2992</td>
<td>4570</td>
<td>3768</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>37643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>4,191</td>
<td>12,189</td>
<td>6094</td>
<td>3585</td>
<td>3566</td>
<td>8259</td>
<td>1280</td>
<td>39266</td>
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<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>3005</td>
<td>3,552</td>
<td>16136</td>
<td>3622</td>
<td>4350</td>
<td>8715</td>
<td>1355</td>
<td>41198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3010</td>
<td>13,939</td>
<td>28,699</td>
<td>38941</td>
<td>19327</td>
<td>16019</td>
<td>23463</td>
<td>5827</td>
<td>149225</td>
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</table>

### The benefits from one cow per poor family

- Has contributed to increased milk production in the country
- Has assisted farmers to increase crop production
- Has increased income from milk sales.
- Some Girinka beneficiaries have managed to get loans from the bank hence development
- The one cow per poor family has created employment to individuals
One cow per poor families has improved the health status of beneficiaries

One cow has created an opportunity to Education of family members

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT RAB