

Give Goats a Go



Mbale, Uganda



Economic Empowerment

3 Year Project: Jan 2025 to Dec 2027

Total Budget: \$57,000

Year 1 Budget: \$19,000

Overview

Through the rearing of goats, the goals of this project are to reduce poverty, increase food production and teach people about issues such as healthcare and community work. One hundred pregnant goats per year are provided to women in poor families who have been identified by a locally-established community committee in two areas of this mountainous region of eastern Uganda near Mbale. This complements other community development projects in the area where our partners have been working for over 10 years. Each beneficiary will give the firstborn female kid to a nominated community/family member who will then pass on a kid to another beneficiary until a goat has reached three people.

Impact for January - December 2025



5 A 5-person community leadership committee

manages the selection process of beneficiaries. Priority is given to the neediest. Interest in the program continues to increase as the community sees the benefits of goat rearing - they are relatively easy to keep with fast returns.

92 pregnant goats were distributed to the beneficiaries. Exchange rate fluctuations resulted in 92 (not 100) goats being purchased this year. Goat rearing creates income to improve self-reliance, increases food production and security plus benefits other family members, especially children.



Animal husbandry training

Most of the training in goat management is carried out by members who have previously been trained. This helps to make the project sustainable and encourages community participation.

All second generation goats were distributed

to the next beneficiaries in line. They, in turn, will also pass on their first female offspring. And so the cycle continues and multiple recipients eventually benefit from the program.



- The local village council who manages identification & selection of beneficiaries also helps with monitoring and evaluation at no charge.
- The sale of goat milk provides a reliable source of income for families, enabling their children to keep attending school.



Irene's Story

I was married off at 15 to an older man as his fourth wife. I initially experienced positive attention from my husband which caused jealousy from my co wives, but then my husband brought in yet another wife and we all became victims of domestic violence. I walked away from this marriage and moved in with my aunt. Life was still difficult. We had no income apart from digging people's gardens and I had three children to raise. I now own a goat, which recently gave birth to twins. I took a loan of UGX120,000 (AUD50) from the village savings group and began a firewood business and started selling cassava chips at the trading centre. I can now take care of my children and my aunt, who welcomed me into her house after a terrible marriage.

Thank you for enabling hope in hard places