

BUILDING LIVES

Rural Women's Enterprises

COMMUNITY NEED

In northern Tanzania, rural women carry primary responsibility for caring for goats and sheep, yet livestock productivity and household income remain low. Local breeds grow slowly and command low market prices, while access to veterinary services, business skills, and organized markets is limited. Animal losses are common, and women's economic contribution is often undervalued.

At the same time, demand for mutton and chevon is increasing across Tanzania.

This project helps women capture that opportunity through practical, community-based enterprise support.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

This initiative supports women-owned livestock enterprises by combining improved animals, basic veterinary care, and practical business skills—built on trusted local systems.

Key activities include:

- **Improved livestock assets:** Each woman receives improved-breed pregnant goats or sheep.
- **Revolving livestock model:** Women return female offspring for redistribution to new beneficiaries, enabling growth without additional funding.
- **Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs):** Youth are trained to provide affordable veterinary services as local microenterprises.
- **Business and financial training:** Women receive structured training in animal husbandry, farm recordkeeping, savings, and marketing.
- **Producer groups and VICOBA:** Women organize into groups linked to Village Community Banks (VICOBA) for savings, reinvestment, and collective sales.
- **Demonstration Unit:** A community learning hub supports hands-on training, fodder conservation, improved breeding, and replication.

EXPECTED IMPACT

- Initially, 50 women established as livestock entrepreneurs
- At least 40% increase in livestock-related income within three years
- Reduced animal mortality and improved herd productivity
- Improved household nutrition and financial resilience
- Youth employment through veterinary service provision
- Expansion of benefits to new women annually through livestock pass-on
- Although the project begins with 50 women, the revolving livestock pass-on model will expand benefits to approximately 200 women and over 1,000 household members within five years, without additional funding.

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THE ASK

We request USD 87,000 from Rotary districts and partnering clubs to launch Building Lives: Rural Women's Enterprises, in northern Tanzania. This one-time fund will establish 50 sustainable, women-led livestock businesses and, through a revolving pass-on system, extend benefits to approximately 200 women and over 1,000 household members within five years—without additional funding.

At roughly USD 435 per direct beneficiary woman, this project delivers high impact at low cost, unlocking pathways to 40% or greater income growth, improved household nutrition, and intergenerational resilience.

It advances gender equity, creates dignified youth employment in technical roles, and builds a self-sustaining engine of local economic development that will continue to grow long after the grant period ends.

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GENDER EQUITY AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

This project directly advances gender equity by transforming rural women from unpaid livestock caretakers into recognized entrepreneurs and decision-makers.

It engages youth in skilled technical roles, creating employment while strengthening community services.

The model reflects Rotary's commitment to sustainable development, economic empowerment, and locally driven solutions.

SUSTAINABILITY AND OWNERSHIP

Sustainability is embedded in the project design. The livestock pass-on system creates a self-replicating asset base, CAHWs ensure continued access to veterinary care through market-based services, and producer groups linked to VICOBA provide enduring financial and governance structures.

Community-based selection processes, public graduation and pass-on ceremonies, and local leadership involvement reinforce accountability, pride, and long-term ownership. After grant funding ends, women's enterprises, savings groups, and veterinary services will continue functioning and expanding with minimal external support.



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