



# Rural Women Goats and Hens for Livelihoods

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How do women use their livelihoods income?**

They send their children to school, especially girls who are disadvantaged. They feed their families and meet their health needs.

### **I thought there were plenty of goats and hens (chickens) in rural Kenya?**

Not all rural households have them. Mpanzi is working with some women who live in extreme poverty and cannot afford to buy a chicken, let alone a goat.

### **Don't men have goats and chickens? Why do the women also need goats and chickens?**

Some of the women participating in Mpanzi livelihoods initiative are widowed or abandoned heads of households. Some are grandmothers taking care of grandchildren orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Other women are married in single families or where men have multiple wives, and some men already own goats and chickens but do not allow the women to utilize the livestock to meet urgent needs. The women report incidents of domestic violence.

### **Are the men not going to be jealous of their wives owning livestock and take it away?**

Not all women have husbands. For those who do, there are measures in place. The initiative is group owned. The women have come together in groups of 10 supporting one another through visitations and dialogue. In addition, Mpanzi has involved men in support of this initiative. For example, Mpanzi organizes public meetings called barazas where men and local leaders like chiefs speak publicly in support of the initiative for women.

### **What if a goat dies?**

The women anticipate that tragedy may strike where goats or chickens die or are stolen. In this case, the women have decided to provide another one. Mpanzi is also working with the local government of Kenya ministry of livestock to provide education to the women on care of the livestock to minimize chances of death relating to care or disease.

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