

For residents of Kinigi Sector in Musanze District, livestock is increasingly becoming a vital source of livelihood support. For Mukeshimana Beatrice, a mother of four from Kampaga Cell, the initiative represents hope for improved household income and food security.

Mukeshimana is among 62 families that received livestock support from Abdullah Kiromba Foundation (AKF) in collaboration with Zakat Foundation of America on Friday, May 16, 2025.



Under the program, a total of 124 sheep were distributed, with each beneficiary receiving two sheep. The livestock distribution initiative aims to improve household income, enhance food security, and provide manure for agriculture through animal rearing.

“The purpose of AKF’s livestock program is to support livelihoods while ensuring that beneficiaries can obtain offspring, which are then shared with other families, allowing the initiative to expand its impact and help families meet their basic needs,” said Niyonsaba Donath, President of Abdullah Kiromba Foundation.

He explained that beneficiaries are encouraged to pass on the first ewe lamb to another family once the sheep gives birth, in line with Rwanda’s long-standing culture of sharing and solidarity.

In Rwanda, livestock distribution programs—whether by government or non-governmental organizations such as the Girinka Program—serve as assets for food security and income generation among vulnerable families.



To ensure sustainability, AKF confirmed that all animals were vaccinated and treated before distribution. The foundation also assured beneficiaries that veterinary services will remain available to address any cases of pests or diseases.

Mukeshimana, who was selected by local authorities in her cell, expressed gratitude to AKF, Zakat Foundation of America, and Kinigi Sector leaders. She pledged to take good care of the sheep to ensure they reproduce.

“I will share the first ewe lamb with another family, then keep the adults so they

can continue lambing. Over time, I hope to build a flock that will help me pay school fees for my children,” she said.

Since the beginning of this year, AKF—working closely with local authorities—has distributed livestock including goats and cows in Gatsibo District. Since the livestock distribution program began in 2021, the nonprofit organization has supported more than 1,000 families, with plans to continue in the coming months.

AKF said sheep were chosen for Kinigi in Musanze due to the area’s high altitude, moderate climate, and fertile volcanic soils, which provide favorable conditions for grazing and fodder, despite seasonal pasture shortages.



Jean Paul Uwumuremyi, the officer in charge of social affairs in Kinigi Sector, praised the initiative, describing it as a significant step toward helping communities lift themselves out of poverty.

“It is important to have partners like AKF and Zakat Foundation of America. Unlike some other livestock that are more susceptible to disease, pests, and drought, sheep are more resilient, especially in the Kinigi area,” Uwumuremyi said.

He added that sheep provide a reliable source of income and food, complementing agriculture in a densely populated region where land is limited.

In addition to livestock distribution, AKF and Zakat Foundation of America have also supported orphans with school fees and scholastic support as part of their broader community welfare initiatives.

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AKF officials said the livestock distribution program will continue throughout the year, with more vulnerable families expected to benefit through continued collaboration with local authorities.