

## CHICKENS CHANGE LIVES: Patrick's Story

From the Buikwe District in Uganda, in a small village called Kungu, we meet a man named Patrick, married and a father to four. Like others from this district, Patrick works hard to provide for his family, but his efforts can be frustrating, for as hard as he works, he barely earns enough to provide a substantial living.

**Money was scarce and anxieties were high** as Patrick and men like him worry about how to provide even the most basic provisions for their families... medicine, clothes, school fees. Disunity is commonplace between husbands and wives, the bond between life-partners diminished by the hardship and disappointment of everyday life.

Home life can be rough. The kids would have to stay home from school when the fees went unpaid. Sometimes for weeks at a time.



*“My children never sit home for a week anymore because of [unpaid school] fees, I just sell a few chickens and pay fees”  
– Patrick*



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A higher purpose.*

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And the family was often hungry. In fact, when the garden didn't yield a good crop, **the family endured a period of starvation until the next harvest.** There just seemed to be no alternative. Life was hard and there didn't seem to be a way out of the devastation. Or was there?

## Cue chickens.

Patrick's life made a complete turnaround the day he received ten chickens through a Family Empowerment Program run by a Bright Hope partner church. Today he has 70 chickens and his life has improved substantially!



His children are clothed and fed.

School fees are no longer a challenge, and when someone is sick, he can afford medicine.

**“My children never sit home for a week anymore because of [unpaid school] fees, I just sell a few chickens and pay fees,”** Patrick said. He hopes to educate them to a level where they become “great people who will change this community.”

And his marriage has improved.

**“Because I partner with my wife in making decisions concerning our chicken, whether we should serve a visitor chicken, how many eggs to give our children... This has brought unity and a strong bond between me and my wife,”** Patrick said.

(Am I hearing this right? The chickens improved his marriage?!)

Patrick's chickens are so valuable to him, he'd prefer someone giving him a chick over cash! “If someone gave you a chick, in just six months you will be eating eggs, selling chicken and breeding more chickens,” he said.

And look at how he's strategizing with them...

Patrick has been able to own seven goats. Some he's gotten by trading his chickens, and others he purchased with money from chickens and eggs. His garden has also benefited from the manure that the chickens and goats produce, and his goal now is to sell some chickens and goats to be able to buy a cow.



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“My ultimate goal is to make this a family business,” he said. “I want to have more chickens, more cows and goats. My children should be able to also benefit from this blessing of knowledge and resources that Bright Hope brought.”

(P.S. As a member of the father’s club at one of our partner churches (a Bright Hope initiative), Patrick isn’t keeping this all to himself: he is encouraging other members to start keeping chickens too! We think that’s awesome.)



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