**Project Title**

Pigs give wings to 50 rural women.

URL

* Raise the incomes of 50 vulnerable rural women and their families
* Improve knowledge/skills on raising pigs in an environmentally-friendly way
* Improve soil fertility and water retention (by using manure from pigs to improve crop production)

**Project Summary**

The Shashe Agroecology School in southern Zimbabwe will build on its long history of bringing farmers together, by organizing and training 50 women to start an environmentally-friendly piggery.

**Requested Funding Amount**

USD5, 000

**Donations Options**

* $1 will buy an exercise book and pen for one woman’s training and tracking of pigs’ growth
* $25 will purchase medicines for one women
* $25 will pay clean drinking water for one pig
* $50 will buy pig feed for one women to start
* $100 will buy one pig
* $200 will buy two pigs
* $300 will buy three pigs

**What is the issue, problem or challenge?**

The current economic crisis in Zimbabwe is directly affecting vulnerable rural women in the Shashe community, the area around ZIMSOFF’s Agroecology School. Families’ living standards are dropping and we are seeing more and more high children school drop out of school.

The families who will be involved in this project have lost their livestock during the 2015-16 season. They have not been able to return to their previous household incomes, starting a vicious cycle. Then the heavy rains of the 2016-17 season have washed vital nutrients from the soil needed for crops to thrive. And so the cycle of poverty is worsening...but it can be stopped.

**How will this project solve the problem?**

By organizing small groups of women to start up this piggery project, they can use these practical skills and knowledge to not only restore their families’ income, but also do so in a way that is in balance with nature and each other. The pigs’ manure will enrich the soil of their land as well, and grow more food for their families.

Not only will the women be trained in environmentally friendly piggery production, they will visit successful local farmers. From them, they will learn how to develop a production calendar, so that they can continue reproducing from the first pigs purchased, and eventually pass on young sows that they raise to additional families in the community.

**Potential Long Term Impact**

Once they are trained, the 50 rural women will directly manage this piggery project. This will enable them to not only generate income collectively, but also eventually at the household level. By providing this training within an environmentally friendly framework, ZIMSOFF also believes that we can improve agricultural methods to sustainably benefit families and communities - making farmers more self-sufficient and less dependent on expensive chemical inputs like fertilizer. We estimate that within our local economy, the project will contribute to nutrition of over 500 households.

**Project Message**

Pigs might not be able to fly, but they will give these 50 women wings as they “take off” with this project!

Creating a piggery in the Shashe community just makes good sense:

* There is a huge demand for meat in the area and people willing to buy pork.
* Pigs can reproduce at a faster rate than larger livestock, which means small farmers can see profits more quickly.
* Pigs don’t need to eat huge amounts of grass or grain, but can be integrated into the household and eat kitchen scraps.
* Using manure from the piggery, rather than expensive commercial (chemical) fertilizer, is not only economical for families, but better for the environment.
* The piggery will be a welcome addition to ZIMSOFF’s already existing Agroecology School in Shashe, which has a successful track record of 10 years offering farmer-to-farmer extension services and training. Everything the women will learn will be a part of ZIMSOFF’s ongoing work to support organic farming in the area, make the local economy more sustainable, and enable people to become more resilient in the face of climate change.
* Piggery production in Shashe provides a sure potential for increased income for the 50 trained women and their families!

**Primary Photo and Photo Gallery**

*See attached*