

## Rafiki Mwema in Kenya - Life on Doyle Farm

*Hope for children having experienced domestic abuse*

**G**uess the name of this beautiful cow!  
No, you would never guess it, she is actually called 'Femmes'! She is the special cow that was purchased with money Rafiki Mwema received from our Association Femmes d'Europe!

A simple, rented house in Nakuru, Kenya was where it all began. In 2011, the doors opened for girls who were victims of sexual abuse and needed refuge while their cases went through the courts. They called the home 'Rafiki Mwema', which means "loyal friend" in Swahili. Within a week they were caring for 22 girls. Since then, they have grown into four homes and 70 children, who are therapeutically parented in the safety of a secure property, called Doyle Farm. They also support every child who has returned to a caring home in their community with regular visits until they turn 18, to make sure they are safe, cared for and going to school. Rafiki Mwema's mission is to heal each child from their trauma with attachment, love and empathy. They work with families, schools, villages and government to break the cycle of abuse and bring about systemic cultural change to remove the stigma of sexual abuse that sadly is far too common in Kenya. The Rafiki Feeding Program is an important extension of the work done at Doyle Farm. It is a direct way to connect with and support

the boys, girls and babies who aren't in their direct care.



Life is tough for these street families, so the feeding program:

- serves a meal - 7 days a week - to around 90 street children. The meals are served at local restaurants that are run by women living in extreme poverty, helping to improve their financial stability
- hires a washroom for bathing and washing clothes
- provides First Aid (and covers medical treatment and hospital stays when needed)
- provides sports and

arts activities

- grows vegetables and fruit on the farm on the property in order to nourish the children.

In 2017, to allow the cultivation of enough vegetables to feed this large number of people, our Association financed two large greenhouses. The main purpose was to grow tomatoes, coriander, capsicum, beetroot and other vegetables because it is extremely difficult to grow the crops on open ground due to unfavourable weather conditions. These structures enabled the growth of enough tomatoes and other crops to feed the children on the farm and the excess produce was sold in the neighbourhood. The income from these sales was used to purchase 50 chickens to supply eggs for the children. The greenhouses have needed serious repairs over the years as they were not made of steel.

*. Projet du mois – Project of the Month .*

So Rafiki Mwema came to our Association in 2022 to ask for the financing of a solid steel greenhouse and a cow, which they called 'Femmes' to honour our Association.

They now have enough milk for all the children in their care and their vegetables are grown in a solid greenhouse which does not incur high costs for repair.

A few weeks ago, two of our members were invited for an interview about our Association. You can read the blog post here below. \*

We are very proud to be part of this community project and thank our members who accepted the invitation for interview.

*Renate Smith, Vice-Presidency Projects,  
April 2023*

\* <https://rafikimwema.com/a-reminder-that-small-contributions-can-make-a-big-difference-in-the-world/>

