



Matia is 10 years old and lives in a small village in southern Uganda. He lives there with seven of his brothers, sisters and cousins, but not with his parents. They died when he was four years old and his 17-year-old brother Richard has brought him up ever since.

When they lost their parents, the family tried to work together to make sure they had enough food to eat and enough money for essential items. When Matia was small this was very hard and they often went hungry. The children would make money by digging for local farmers, getting just 60p a day. This wasn't enough though and they had to survive on very little food and no medicine, shoes or bedding.

In 2003 the family was given a cow by Send a Cow. They called it 'Kirabo', meaning 'gift from God'. Kirabo was a great gift and she made a big difference to the children's lives. She gave them: milk to drink, so that they could become healthier and stronger; manure for the soil, so they could grow twice as many vegetables and some extra milk, which they sold at the local market. Now the children are much healthier, Matia is happy and the extra money means that they can pay for school fees and medicine and buy cups and saucepans.

Matia says, 'I have much more energy, thanks to the milk and vegetables, and I don't get ill very often anymore. Now I can go and play football in my spare time. We are so happy to have been given Kirabo.'

Matia from Uganda



Matia lives with his other orphaned relatives. They were helped by Send a Cow.