



Rose is an eleven-year-old girl who lives in the tiny country of Rwanda in central Africa. In 1994, when she was just a baby, her brother Fidele had to hide with her in swamps and fields of banana plants. They were hiding from armed gangs of people who wanted to kill everyone from their ethnic group – the Tutsis. Rwanda went through a horrible time of fighting (called genocide) that year, when thousands of children were made into orphans. Fidele, baby Rose and three other brothers and sisters were just some of the children left as orphans that year. Since then, Rose has looked up to Fidele as more of a father than an older brother and they have had to work hard to survive.

In 2003 Rose's household were given a cow by Send a Cow, giving them new hope. The first benefit was its manure, which they put on the soil; giving them three times as many vegetables on their plots of land. The cow's milk helped to improve their health and some was sold giving them money so that the children could go to school. The training that they got helped them to be part of a bigger group of orphans – all joining together to make things better. The cow really made a big difference and they work together to look after it, keeping it well fed, clean and healthy. They also work on the land together – which is where they get their food. Fidele has taught Rose how to make vegetable gardens and all of the other things that he learnt from Send a Cow about using manure, making compost and looking after plants. There is always work to do, but now that they have some money from selling milk and vegetables, Fidele can afford to pay for school fees, as education isn't free in Rwanda.

Rose's future looks much brighter, now that she is getting an education she is more likely to get a good job when she is older. Also, because they are part of a group of orphans they can all support and help each other – Fidele and Rose have already helped others by giving another group of orphans their first female calf. Fidele has recently got married and now has another baby to look after, thankfully she is growing up in a much more hopeful situation.

Rose from Rwanda



Rose now has new hope thanks to Send a Cow and the help of her brother, Fidele.