

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." - (Isaiah 12.3)

# Iriba Shalom International e. V.

## Welcome message

***"If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith... If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."***

*(1 Corinthians 15:14,19)*

Many theologians deceive themselves and others when they reduce the resurrection of Jesus to a subjective statement of faith. The Bible says the opposite: after the crucifixion, the faith of the disciples had to be awakened through encounters with the risen Christ.

Without the resurrection, faith would be groundless and meaningless. But because Jesus truly rose from the grave and defeated death, there is living hope for all who died in faith amid genocide, war, or long illness.

The living Christ has turned mourning into joy and gives new life—now and forever, in Rwanda and everywhere.

**We wish you a blessed Easter – Pasika nziza!**

The board and team of

*Iriba Shalom International e. V.*

## Message from the Tailoring Project: Hope for the Next Generation

More than 30 years after the genocide against the Tutsi, its consequences still affect the lives of the next generation. Many young women grow up in families marked by loss, poverty, and traumatic experiences. Limited access to education, early pregnancies, and social exclusion further complicate their path.

This is exactly where the tailoring project of our partners Iriba Shalom Rwanda and Shalom Ministries comes in: it gives young women new perspectives, strengthens their self-worth, and opens up concrete opportunities for the future.



More than 200 young women have already successfully completed the training. One of them is Faina, who, as a young single mother, struggled for a long time with shame and hopelessness. Today she sews clothes for customers, earns her own income, and experiences acceptance.

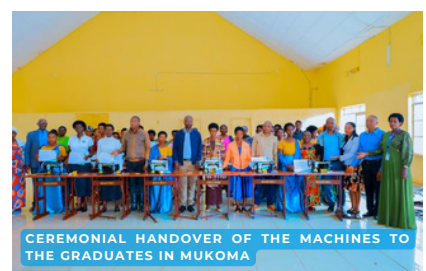
In addition to practical skills, participants learn responsibility, health awareness, and experience community across different family backgrounds—where there was once division, new unity is growing.

A particularly important step toward independence is graduation: women who successfully complete the program receive their own sewing machine from Iriba Shalom Rwanda as a gift. This enables them to start earning an income immediately and build their future independently.



The project thus becomes an important contribution to healing and reconciliation in the next generation. With a sewing machine costing around €120, a new life path can begin.

**Purpose of donation: Tailoring Project**



---

# Genocide Commemoration from April 7: The Perpetrators and Their Ideology Are Still Active



Just as important as the annual commemoration of the approximately 10,000 Tutsi who were brutally killed each day in 1994 is the need to recognize the causes and current dangers. The perpetrators of the genocide, who were able to flee to what was then Zaire under the protection of the French and with their weapons, have never abandoned their plan to completely exterminate the Tutsi. To protect itself from this threat, Rwanda supports the M23 rebel movement, led by Congolese Tutsi, which controls the area along the border with Rwanda. As a result, Rwanda is being sanctioned by the United States.

The M23 was formed to (simply put) protect the Rwandophone “Tutsi” who have lived for centuries in the provinces of North and South Kivu and who have often been victims of massacres. Now, the Congolese armed forces have allied themselves with groups that have been pursuing the extermination of the Tutsi for years, and they are (once again) being trained by French soldiers.

This is largely ignored by most of the German press, which claims that Rwanda is seeking to secure mineral resources in eastern Congo. Likewise, hate speech— even by high-ranking officials in Congo— against the Tutsi is being concealed, despite its alarming similarity to the rhetoric preceding the genocide in Rwanda, calling for the extermination of the Tutsi in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Rwanda.

The Belgian lawyer Bernard Maingain sees the cause of this ongoing hatred and the denial of the genocide in the fact that, unlike in Germany, there was no “denazification” process for these perpetrators. While in Germany children confronted their parents with critical questions about their direct or indirect involvement in Nazi crimes, most children and grandchildren of the fugitive perpetrators continue to uphold the same ideology.

The German newspaper tageszeitung (taz) summarizes the situation as follows:

“The United States punishes Rwanda’s army, France trains its opponents in Congo. Rwanda’s government feels confirmed: in case of doubt, we are on our own.”

Article by Dr. Wolfgang Reinhardt

## Give Health and Hope with Your Donation

For many widows and poor families in Rwanda, medical assistance is vital.

As little as 5 euros per year enables one person to access health insurance and thus receive necessary medical care.

The importance of this support is especially evident among the widows in our senior center, who still suffer greatly from the consequences of the genocide 32 years ago. Many of them need to be taken regularly to hospitals or health centers for examinations.

Due to the poor road conditions in rural areas, every transport is difficult and associated with high costs. In addition, medication, medical support, and, in emergency cases, further assistance are required.



With your donation, you are making a very concrete contribution to ensuring that necessary treatments remain possible and that our widows continue to receive reliable care in old age. Every contribution provides care, dignity, and new hope.

**Purpose of donation: Medical Aid**

## Livestock Farming: A Gift of Dignity and Reconciliation

"I am a queen—my king has given me a cow," said one survivor joyfully.

For many widows, livestock is more than material support—it is a symbol of dignity, hope, and a new beginning.



PARTICIPATION OF DENISE IN THE CEREMONIAL HANDOVER OF A CALF AT IRIBA SHALOM RWANDA IN MUKOMA – SEPTEMBER 2025

A cow provides milk, fertilizer, and income. But it also symbolizes new life after destruction. Particularly moving is how livestock builds bridges of reconciliation: survivors give animals to families connected to the genocide, turning aid into a visible expression of forgiveness.



COWS IN THE BARN OF THE SENIOR CENTER IN MUKOMA

Goats and sheep also help strengthen families sustainably and give hope.

### Purpose of donation: Livestock



SUCCESSFUL OFFSPRING AMONG THE GOATS

## Agriculture: A New Hope

For many widows, especially in rural areas such as those served by our partner organization Iriba Shalom Rwanda in Mukoma-Shangi, agriculture remains a path back to life. After the traumatic experiences of the genocide, cultivating the fields means not only providing food, but also healing, community, and a renewed future.



WORKING TOGETHER IN THE FIELDS IN MUKOMA

Together, they grow bananas, cassava, beans, soy, vegetables, and coffee on the land of Iriba Shalom Rwanda—often under simple conditions, but with great perseverance and a strong sense of community.



FERTILIZING THE PLANTS OF A BANANA PLANT IN MUKOMA.

Especially in April, when Rwanda commemorates the genocide and Easter proclaims hope for resurrection and new life, this work takes on a special meaning: new life grows from wounded soil. In the fields, the widows share their stories, pray together, and strengthen one another. However, irregular rainfall, illness, and a lack of labor remain major challenges. Your support helps secure harvests and allows hope to continue to grow.

### Purpose of donation: Agriculture



A BOUNTIFUL BEAN HARVEST IN MUKOMA.

---

## Treasurer Wanted – Shaping the Future Together

With great gratitude, we will bid farewell to Victor Adrian at our general assembly in June as he steps down from his role as treasurer of our association. Over many years, his dedication, faithfulness, and strong sense of responsibility have helped ensure that our work for survivors of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda could be carried out reliably.

At the same time, this transition invites us to look ahead together: for this valuable role, we are seeking a person who is willing to contribute their gifts and take on responsibility within a shared effort. No one walks this path alone—as a board, we support one another, learn together, and welcome every heart that wants to carry forward our shared vision.

We look forward to hearing from anyone interested in this position, ideally from Kassel or the surrounding area.

## Called home in God's peace

With deep sorrow, we say farewell to Immaculée Mukarurangwa, an elderly widow from the Iriba Shalom Rwanda community, who passed away on March 21, 2026, after a long illness. After a life marked by loss, trauma, and health challenges, she was able – since December 2024 – to experience care, companionship, and renewed dignity in the Iriba Shalom Rwanda senior residence, a place she herself came to regard as home and a substitute family.

Her passing once again highlights how important holistic care for traumatized elderly widows in Mukoma is. At the same time, we are grateful for all the support that makes this work possible and continue to ask for prayers and donations for the residents, the staff, and the ongoing needs of the senior residence.

### OUR CONTACTS

#### General information, lectures, public relations

Denise Uwimana-Reinhardt | Dr. Wolfgang Reinhardt  
Email: [info@iriba-shalom-international.org](mailto:info@iriba-shalom-international.org) | [dunir@online.de](mailto:dunir@online.de)  
Tel.: 0561 - 450 073 10 | Mobile: 01578 - 086 37 86

#### Administration office – Annika Birkenfeld

email: [office@iriba-shalom-international.org](mailto:office@iriba-shalom-international.org)

#### Trips to Rwanda, interns – Monika Meier

email: [project@iriba-shalom-international.org](mailto:project@iriba-shalom-international.org)  
Mobile: 0178 68 66 831

#### Finance, donations – Victor Adrian

email: [finance@iriba-shalom-international.org](mailto:finance@iriba-shalom-international.org)

#### Sponsorships – Kerstin Dietermann

email: [sponsorship@iriba-shalom-international.org](mailto:sponsorship@iriba-shalom-international.org)

#### Social media, website – Elisabeth Kürsten

email: [media@iriba-shalom-international.org](mailto:media@iriba-shalom-international.org)

### DONATION ACCOUNT AND CONTACT DETAILS

Iriba Shalom International e.V.  
Evangelische Bank  
IBAN: DE86 5206 0410 0000 8104 44  
BIC: GENODEFIEK1

*When making a donation, please indicate the purpose of the donation and, for first-time donations, your address for the donation receipt!*

#### Contact

Iriba Shalom international e.V.  
Heinrich-Schütz-Alle 287  
34134 Kassel  
Tel. +49 561-45007310

[www.iriba-shalom-international.org](http://www.iriba-shalom-international.org)

Facebook: [@iribashalomint](https://www.facebook.com/iribashalomint)  
Instagram: [iriba\\_shalom\\_international](https://www.instagram.com/iriba_shalom_international)

U.S. donors visit:  
<https://globalhz.org/iriba-shalom-usa>