A goat. A pig. A cow. One animal can change the life of a hard-working family—giving them the boost they need to start a successful business that will feed and educate their children. Between October 2018 and March 2019, Gift Catalog donors like you enabled struggling families in 21 countries to receive animals, providing economic stability. But most of all, your gift created hope for these families and the confidence that they could improve their lives.

**ECUADOR**

*Alpacas are helping improve income and conserve environment*

In the moorlands of Ecuador’s Chimborazo province, the ecosystem is rather delicate at an elevation of more than 12,700 feet. The residents of the community of Galte Bisñag were beginning to wonder what was contributing to the degradation of their soil and water. World Vision helped address one key cause by encouraging farmers to raise other animals besides cattle and sheep, whose split hooves tear up the fragile pasture.

Manuel Capito, 55, is among those now raising alpacas, which are more well-suited to the local landscape and whose wool can be harvested for conversion into blankets and clothing. With support from World Vision, Manuel received training in raising alpacas, and he now serves as a trainer for other interested local farmers.

“We currently have 35 alpacas in the community,” he said. “From the wool and fiber of the alpacas, the women in our community have formed a group of garment weavers that serve for our children’s clothes and for selling. My wife Maria and my 18-year-old daughter Rosa have strengthened their abilities to contribute to the economy of our family, especially for the education of our children, and [to] the leadership of women in the community.”

**MONGOLIA**

*Cows and training are boosting livelihoods of vulnerable families*

In northern Mongolia, near the country’s border with Russia, World Vision is helping 100 vulnerable households improve their health and income through training in livestock management, nutrition, parenting, and financial management. Each participating household also is receiving three cows.

Gandemberel, his wife, and their three daughters are among those benefiting from the assistance in the Tsagaan-Uul area. World Vision has trained the mother how to make dairy products from cow’s milk, how to sew, and how to manage the family’s savings. She also now serves as a leader of a local savings group with 12 members.

Gandemberel is very grateful for the assistance. Of his wife, he said, “She learned many things. Also, she can make family members’ clothes now. This project is very helpful for the herder family’s life.”
SRI LANKA

Fatima begins raising goats to increase family income

In the Mundalama area of Sri Lanka, Fatima Fazna and her husband care for three children. The husband is a carpenter and Fatima works as a day laborer at a vegetable export company, since the carpentry income fluctuates quite a bit. Still, their combined income is insufficient to meet the family’s needs. It was therefore a great relief when Fatima was selected for participation in a World Vision project to support the raising of livestock. She received training in raising goats and in business management.

In response, Fatima set out to start a successful goat farm with the help of her husband and children. She received three female goats, one male goat, and materials for building a goat shed. She carefully tended the goats, and now they have increased to nine goats. Fatima plans to sell the next generation of goats and to increase her flock to 15 goats in the coming months.

“My children love the goats,” she said. “They run home from school to play with them. I thank [you] for providing me with this opportunity, which has brought happiness back to my household.”

ZAMBIA

Goats enable Lebby to keep her children in school

Lebby Chilube is among 3,000 small-scale farmers in Zambia benefiting from a project to help improve incomes through the raising of livestock. She is a single mother who cares for four children in Siamabbonka village in the Moyo chiefdom. Her family’s main source of livelihood has been growing rain-fed crops including corn, soybeans, and groundnuts.

Unfortunately for Lebby and her children, a prolonged dry spell during the 2018-2019 farming season cut her agricultural production in half. Lebby was able to find other means to feed her children, but could not find sufficient cash to pay their school fees. Previously, crop sales covered the fees. This put her in a deep quandary.

The receipt of five goats from World Vision, along with training and other assistance, came at just the right time for Lebby. The goats have since multiplied to 11.

“Thank you, World Vision, for the support of goats,” Lebby said. “The problem of paying school fees for my children is now history. I’m now sure that all my children will complete grade 12. The goats will do the magic,” she said.

Thank you for helping create a brighter future for Lebby and her family.