

CHICKENS



A chicken can provide eggs and meat, as well as a source of income. With a relatively modest investment of money in chickens, Maasai women can be empowered in their own families and villages: they can feed their families and earn money. The IMAGE Project partners with the Maasai women around the village of Kwale, outside of Iringa, on chicken projects.

The IMAGE Project promotes Maasai women's chicken projects by providing a "matching flock" to women who demonstrate they have an appropriate chicken coop, agree to vaccinate their chickens, and purchase their own, first, flock.

The IMAGE Project consults with the women who receive chickens from the organization to monitor successes and challenges with the projects, and strives to work with the women to address any challenges.

For example, in 2008 and again in 2009, The IMAGE Project invited a local veterinarian to meet with the women to discuss vaccination of the chickens. He discussed the importance of vaccination, the low cost of the vaccine, and the importance of record-keeping and demonstrated how to vaccinate a chicken. In 2009, in response to women's concerns that small chicks were being taken by wild animals, the veterinarian suggested (and demonstrated) that the chicks be "painted" with gentian blue, which, he thought, might scare the predators away.

A flock of chickens cost \$10.