

**From:** [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - The Optimist](#)  
**To:** [ctcinfohub@gmail.com](mailto:ctcinfohub@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** How one cow helped five children get an education  
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BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation

## The Optimist

Relentless pursuit of an equitable world

Hello,

What's the difference between a Friesian cow and "fruit salad" breed? [About eight liters of milk](#). When dairy cows were first imported to Kenya in the 1950s, it proved difficult for small farmers to keep data on productivity and maintain optimal breeding. The result? Cows that one scientist dubbed a "fruit salad mix" that simply didn't produce enough milk to support farmers and their families.

In rural Kenya, Josephine Kimonyi runs a small farm, but her cow wasn't supplying enough milk to feed her family. This shortage forced her to go into town and buy more milk as needed. It was a costly exercise. And it also got in the way of her ambitions to grow her farm and give her children a great education.

[Luckily, Josephine had an idea](#). She learned about a new kind of cow, carefully bred to produce nearly 16 liters of milk. Scientists from Kenya to Scotland had come together to breed this very special cow to benefit farmers like Josephine. She saved up to purchase one—and saw how one special cow could help her change her family's future.

In the latest installment of our new series, *Partners of Human Potential*, [meet the farmers, scientists, and yes, even the cows, that are transforming communities in Kenya and beyond](#).

— *The Optimist* Editors

[See Josephine's story](#)

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## Featured article



### How do better cows lead to better grades?

Meet the farmers and scientists using remarkable cows to help their communities thrive.

[Read article](#)

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In case you missed it: Earlier this week, CEO Mark Suzman spoke on Melinda French Gates's decision to resign as co-chair of the foundation. Click to see Mark's announcement as well as the message he shared with foundation employees.

[See Mark's full statement](#)

## What we're reading

Gavi



### Send in the fridges: major infrastructure upgrade to Kenya's vaccine cold chain rolls out

See how upgrades in “cold chain” equipment are offering critical protections for Kenya's public health.

LinkedIn



### We love Lana's look, but mosquitoes don't!

Last week's Met Gala featured a number of stunning looks—though certain insects might disagree.

U.S. News



### In Vietnam, farmers reduce methane emissions by changing how they grow rice

Rice production is vulnerable to climate change, but it also contributes to it. See how the world's third-largest exporter of this staple crop is adapting to the challenge.

World Health Organization



### Global report on neglected tropical diseases 2024

The WHO's latest report finds that 50 countries have successfully eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease.

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