

A Self-Help Project to Change the World

Fund 40 Micro-Credit Loans for Women in Ghana



Agnes Jaka stands near her goat pen.

What's the Problem?

In the developing world, women do not have access to credit -- other than turning to loan brokers who charge an unbelievable interest rate. Even if they have a skill or the initiative to begin a small enterprise, women lack collateral and basic funding to even begin.

Self-Help has been battling hunger in Ghana since 1989. Our development approach is paying dividends among the illiterate, rural poor but pending micro-credit loans (\$75 to \$250) may go unfunded if money is not made available. In the village of Bomfa, Agnes Jaka needs a new loan to replace the two goats she lost. Two women are waiting for funds to purchase a screw-press for their palm oil processing. Olivia, in Kwaso, wants to expand her chair-rental business. She makes a profit renting them locally for weddings and funerals. In Kumasi, Ama buys charcoal from farms in large bags and sells them in smaller quantities.

What can be done?

The profits that women generate not only repay their loans (97% repayment rate), but also provide food for their families, funding to keep their children and grandchildren in school and money to pay toward the government-mandated health care system. This allows them to become contributing members of their families and communities. The common remark we hear is, "I can't read or write, but because of the micro-credit loans my daughters won't go through life this way."

How can I help?

The money you give keeps helping. The money you give funds a woman's business. She uses the money to raise chickens, process oil or sell pottery. She uses some of the money to repay the loan and uses the profits to buy food, clothing and education for her kids and family. Self-Help uses her repayment to fund a new small business!

- * \$30 buys feed & vaccine for an entire year for 1 woman's poultry business
- * \$50 buys QPM and farm inputs for a woman to grow corn on her 1-acre plot
- * \$65 buys 50 chicks to improve nutrition and increase income for one Ghanaian family
- * \$125 buys a sheep or goat in Ghana for 1 woman's animal husbandry project
- * \$150 buys 200 palm seedlings for a woman's palm oil processing business
- * \$350 buys a screw-press for 1 woman's palm oil processing business



This is a pottery group from Afari, Ghana funded by Self-Help posing with their chick incubators for sale.

About Self-Help

Self-Help is an international development organization based in Waverly, Iowa dedicated to helping people help themselves. Since 1959, it has helped tens of thousands of the world's poorest people win the battle with hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Self-Help is a non-profit with a 501 (c)(3) designation so donations may be tax deductible.