



Progress Report

UGA-BHM-KSL-P01 Bufombo, Uganda
Reporting Period: March – December 2018

Kick-Start Loans!

Budget: \$34,800 – fully funded

Update:

This project is a revolving loan scheme in the village of Bufombo, Uganda. Groups of 30 women (and a few men) have been given business training and small loans to improve or build their businesses. They are mentored and encouraged through group meetings and by our partners who hold regular meetings with loan participants. The project targets the poorest in the community, so they can gain self-worth and live dignified lives and break free from poverty. The focus is on becoming self-sufficient allowing families to pay school fees, improve health through better nutrition access to medicines and household necessities. To make the project sustainable, loans are repaid with a small amount of interest for ongoing training in business improvement and marketing, customer service, keeping accounts, and some administration. As loans are repaid they become available for a further loan for others to borrow.

Progress to date:

- 150 people (125 women and 25 men) were selected and broken into five groups (Aug 2017). The groups were provided with three days training in business identification and evaluation, making a simple business plan, risk and finance management and information about savings and loan payments.
- Funds were disbursed in September 2017, the second in December and some in March 2018
- Initially our partners started with the aim of having the loans repaid within 12 months. However, it is taking longer than expected. In the previous project with another village area the recipients were given 18 months to pay back the loan but our partners wanted to trial 12 months. They have found that the recipients are struggling with this and have changed back to the 18-month arrangement. We appreciate our partner's flexibility and have extended the project by 6 months



Our partners say, *"We are pleased that the groups are holding each other accountable for paying back funds. The local community is involved in monitoring and supervision, collecting and bringing loans to the project office, helping groups to recover loan money and assisting with mobilising people for training and giving reports."*

Gloria's (L) husband walked away from her and her two children 4 years ago, leaving them shamed and penniless. They had to beg through sheer desperation to survive. She heard about kick-start loans who said they would teach her the skills she needed and help her. She felt really encouraged that someone believed in her enough to entrust her with a loan and she began to think differently about herself. *"From that day I started a business selling second-hand clothes. I no longer need to beg for food for my family and I can't believe it, but others are now coming to me for help! My business is growing, I have learnt to spend my money wisely and we are healthy."*

Kick-Start loans provides a tangible and effective way to help people help themselves, restoring self-esteem and dignity and a means to survive and flourish. We love stories like this! Thank you for supporting Gloria and others.