



## Completion Report

UGA-BHM-EMP-N01 Wanale, Uganda  
Reporting Period: February to August 2016

### Empowerment Loan Project

**Budget:** \$33,500 – fully funded!

**Update:**

This is a revolving loan scheme in the village of Wanale, Uganda. Groups of 30 people each are given business training and small loans to improve or build their businesses. They are then mentored and encouraged through group meetings and by our partners who hold regular meetings with them. The aim is to focus on the poorest in the community, so they can gain self-worth and live dignified lives. The focus is on helping them become self-sufficient, able to provide for their families, including paying school fees and being able to buy medicine for health problems when necessary.



Business Training

Over this period, 150 people in five groups have taken out loans and have been paying them back steadily. All loan recipients meet strict selection criteria to make sure it is the poorest who have access to the loans. Loans are paid back with a small amount of interest, and this funds the ongoing training of new groups the administration of the project. As funds are paid back they become available for others to borrow, or for the same person to access another loan.

The loans, business training and moral support through mentoring have made such a difference in the lives of the participants. Our partner had this to say about one beneficiary:

*Sarah a lady in Walelela was testifying that through the loans and the trainings she has acquired from the project, she has been able to raise enough income that has enabled her to pay her children's school fees, food and medication. Her son is about to finish university education; which would have been so hard before she joined the groups.*

At this stage in the project, a noticeable difference has occurred in the whole community of Wanale. People are meeting together often to share ideas on how to improve their businesses, and they are even creating new projects together. As a result of the sense of community, the government has also started meeting the people and bringing new improvements to the area. This includes adult literacy and agricultural projects. While it may seem like 'just' a loans project, it is clearly having a catalytic impact on the entire community.



Local businesses

This is the end of the Entrust project but not the end of the revolving loans. We know they will continue to benefit the poor in this community, giving them access to a dignified life where they can support themselves. Thank you for your part in making this possible.