



SWZ-EPI-MFF-N01

## Micro-finance training and loans

- Swaziland, Africa

**Budget:** \$10,000 – fully funded!

This project operates through using a game to provide business training to local groups, and then providing small loans for graduates to help them start a small business. Each participant is able to borrow 3 times, in increasing amounts as original and subsequent loans are repaid.

Over the period of the project 137 loans have been made, including repeat loans. The repayment rate is 92%, a very acceptable rate, given the poverty and the literacy levels of some of the borrowers. In fact our implementer states that he had some concerns due to the literacy and numeracy skills of some of his participants, but that these people have surprised him in their ability to implement business plans and develop thriving businesses. As the money is repaid, the original capital returns to the pool to be re-lent to others in need.

The loans are making a huge difference to a very poor community. One of the couples participating in the project has purchased a tuck shop and this is having a positive impact on the sense of community. As changes occur, people are also spontaneously organising themselves. One group has collaborated to buy a peanut butter machine. As people learn to value their capacity for business and ingenuity, they are empowered, and the entire community begins to feel the benefits.



Working through some business plans



Signing a loan agreement

Now that our implementer has gained confidence with the training tools and the community is gaining an idea of what is possible, we can release further funds to make more loans possible.

On behalf of the Siteki community, we would like to thank you for making this micro-finance project possible.

*The Entrust team*