Progress Report

Small Loan, Big Impact!



White River, South Africa



MAY 19

Economic Empowerment

Project Timeline

Overview

Year 2 Budget \$22,400

This project targets entrepreneurial poor women in eastern South Africa, creating self-help trust groups with about five women per group. These women have the desire to help themselves break the cycle of poverty but lack the start-up capital to run their own small business. This is made possible through an initial, small loan and basic business training. It enables the women to work, earn a constant income, provide for the needs of their household, establish savings and brings hope for entire families. This report is the second of two for Year 2. The Year 3 budget is \$22,400.

Impact for Nov 20 - April 21



¹ Loans were distributed to 282 new women

to support start-up businesses which they developed with the support of our partner's business training, mentoring and support - a remarkable effort despite COVID-19!

FULLY FUNDED

4 new communities were targeted

at the start of this project to allow more people to access the microloans program. The communities are White River, Kabokweni, Mkhuhlu and Acornhoek where many women and families struggle to make a living.





The operational cost for each new client

is \$34. Microloan programs (when done well as is the case here) are cost effective and strategic in helping bring the poor out of poverty - a hand up, not a hand out. This project targets women who are keen and motivated to provide a better life for families.

A total of 738 new clients was added in Yr 2

meeting all targets despite a horrendous year of COVID-19 in South Africa. The resilience of our partners and their effectiveness is reflective of their organisational capacity.



- · Our partner reports strong resilience and loyalty by those they are helping; a testament to good relationships and good management
- · We love that our partners have a strong and focused drive for selfsustainability despite COVID-19 set-backs
- Successful microenterprises are bringing additional money into circulation and raising the living standards for clients and families



Thembi's Story

Thembi is a single mum with two children, three and nine. She tried to run a small business selling sweets and snacks to a nearby school, but she didn't have enough funds to stock her shop and make a decent profit. She heard about our partner's loan scheme through a friend. After training and support, Thembi was able to stock her shop with more items and is doing well. The lockdowns of COVID-19 have been a very tough time. She says, "I am doing better thanks to this support. I have added Tupperware to my goods for sale. I am determined to work hard for my success. Thank you for helping my family!"





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