



OPPORTUNITY
International

UPDATE

SPRING
2018



YOUR IMPACT ACROSS AFRICA



1 GHANA

Improving Access to Water and Sanitation

A pilot project working to deliver improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene has provided loans to install or improve water and toilet facilities in households, communities and schools. At least 24,000 people are now benefiting from clean water and safe toilets in the Kumasi area. The project will now expand to other regions of Ghana.

2 DRC

Supporting Business Women and Men

Over 10,000 people have received loans to improve their businesses and increase their family incomes. In a country with one of the worst track records in gender equality, we're proud that over 60% of our clients in the DRC are women.

3 UGANDA

Increasing Access through Mobile Money

New mobile money networks are enabling 5,500 people to remotely manage their money. They are performing a variety of transactions that would traditionally have required time and money to travel to the nearest bank.

4 KENYA

Keeping Children in School

1,228 school fee loans have enabled families to cover the cost of their children's education throughout the school year. This, along with 189 schools who have accessed loans to improve their facilities, are keeping children in school longer.

5 RWANDA

39,000 jobs

39,000 jobs have been created or sustained by improving smallholder farming. Agricultural training and loans have equipped farmers to improve their productivity. Many farmers saw a 50% increase in their harvest and have employed more people to work on their farm.

6 TANZANIA

Improving Schools

To date, 200 schools have received loans to improve their building facilities and learning resources. Thousands of children can now learn in a safe, clean and positive environment.



7 MALAWI

Mentoring Malawi's Business Women

To date, our 'Women in Business' project in Malawi has supported 830 female entrepreneurs. Business development training and a mentoring programme are helping to strengthen and expand these businesses. As businesses improve they have been able to employ more staff.

8 MOZAMBIQUE

3,000 famers

Over 3,000 farmers have received loans to improve their farms with seeds and fertiliser. They have also been able to store their harvested crops safely in warehouses, which enables them to sell later in the season at a higher price. This provides a secure and stable income to better support their families.

EDUCATING GIRLS IN UGANDA

Girls, far more often than boys, face overwhelming challenges to attending school. When it comes to choice, parents will often educate their sons over their daughters. On top of this, most schools lack decent bathroom facilities, causing many girls to miss school, fall behind and eventually drop-out when they reach adolescence.

In Uganda, only 13% of girls complete secondary school.



Photo: Helen Manson

When a girl receives a good education she will...



Take control of her future



Build stronger families



Be healthier



Get a better job

In 2013, partnering with the UK Government, we began a project in Uganda that focused on supporting community school owners and parents to keep children, particularly girls, in school. Our tailored loans for schools have enabled them to improve their building facilities and resources, whilst training for teachers and school owners ensures schools are run effectively with good quality teaching and care. This hugely successful project benefitted over 30,000 girls.

We are now building on that project to keep a further 56,000 children in school over the next three years. On top of the successful programme of school improvement loans, school fee loans, teacher training, child savings accounts and Girls' clubs, the project will focus on child protection, entrepreneurship and sexual reproductive health training.

Meet Shadia

"My name is Shadia and I am 15 years old. The new bus we recently got picks me up and drops me back to my house every day. Before we had the bus I used to have to walk to school and that would take me an hour. Sometimes there was rainfall and our books, shoes, uniforms and bags would get wet."



Photo: Helen Manson

I have learnt about saving.

“ Sometimes during the year I need a new book as I've used it up or they want us to buy a revision paper that my Mum can't afford. That's when I use my savings and invest in my own education. ”



Photo: Helen Manson

THANK YOU FOR CREATING LASTING CHANGE

Our recent Roots of Change Appeal is set to raise well over £3 million. This incredible total will be matched by the UK Government – making it our most successful appeal to date!

We have been overwhelmed by the public's generosity. Thank you to all those who gave. Your support will help to create lasting change for many communities living in poverty. The Appeal, which ran from December 2017 to February 2018, highlighted the need of many rural farmers to access financial support in order to grow sustainable livelihoods and provide for their families. **Your generous gifts unlocked a match from the UK Government, which will specifically help us to:**

Increase Incomes

Loans will assist women in Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo to build farm and rural business income.

Increase Resilience

Secure savings accounts will enable households to smooth out dips in income during the 'lean season'.

Increase Empowerment

Women will attend workshops and training to build their self-confidence and effectiveness.

Increase Financial Knowledge

Financial training will enable women to build and manage household income and improve their farms.

Over 78,000 people will indirectly benefit from improved nutrition, health care and education. **Without you this would not be possible. Thank you.**

With thanks to our Appeal partners:



CITY A.M.



International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

"Financial independence empowers women to provide for their children, contribute to their communities and help their countries stand on their own two feet. Opportunity International's Roots of Change Appeal will give thousands of women in Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo the necessary tools and skills to help their farms prosper, enabling them to support their families unaided and contribute to the economic development of their country."



"Before Opportunity I would only get 3 bags at harvest, but when Opportunity came I got 9 bags. My life has changed."

Leila, a farmer in Northern Ghana



Watch Leila's full story at:
www.opportunity.org.uk/Leila

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC RADIO 4 APPEAL

On Sunday 7th January 2018, Adjoa Andoh presented our BBC Radio 4 appeal. She spoke movingly about the inspiring women she met in Ghana who are building successful livelihoods thanks to your support. Listen again here: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09kx83m.

A DIVINE PARTNERSHIP

We're embarking on an exciting new partnership with Divine Chocolate, a Fairtrade chocolate company co-owned by Ghanaian cocoa farmers, and TWIN, a non-profit trading company. The initial 1-year project will provide 125 female cocoa farmers with a loan, training and route to market that will empower them to improve their farming business and provide a better future for their children.

OPPORTUNITY IN THE CITY

In February we hosted our first Empowerment Awards Dinner in London. Philanthropists from across the City came together to celebrate the strong and driven women we serve. It was a fantastic evening that highlighted the power of loans, training and support to transform the lives of families and communities.



Photo: Kate Holt

MEET ALIMATU

"I am married with two children. I went to school until senior high but had to leave because we had financial problems when I was a child.

I now make a living growing maize and ground nuts. **Since Opportunity International came there has been a lot of change. They taught us how to plant and how to apply fertiliser. With the loan I got fertiliser to help me boost my crop yield. My harvest has increased three-fold.**

When we harvest this year, I am going to start saving properly because I need to pay my children's school fees. I want my children to be educated."



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