

Support for 50 Rural Wakirike Women Entrepreneurs Progress Report from the Beneficiaries

O.B.: HER STORY - FROM MANGROVE WOMAN TO ISLAND PEREWINKLE SELLER

“Going to the mangrove for periwinkle and other sea food harvesting has been my occupation. I registered with the AMA IBIGOSE WAKIRIKE WOMEN CO-OPERATIVE of Gream Ama and started attending meeting and I was short listed among the women to receive this grant. The money was used to buy some fishing gears [baskets, paddle, bags etc] to aid my periwinkle business. Due to my age, I stopped going to the mangrove forest and I started buying from my friends in large quantities to sell on the island which is more manageable and profitable. I am an anchor to others because I understand the business and I have several customers. From this business, I take care of my family and pay my bills.”



O.E.W, PURE WATER BUSINESS WOMAN.



Is a retired nurse and a producer of package water. “After my retirement, life became unexciting, sitting back at home all day without doing anything tangible and meaningful. I got to know about the micro credit project from the Mother’s Union and Women’s Guild of St. Peter Cathedral Okrika, because I have the zeal of setting up a small business. With this grant received, I started selling pure water with the two refrigerators in my house and had a girl in my employment. Now I have two more part-time workers. My future plan is to buy a pure water making machine and also register with NAFDAC.

The Microcredit is a live changing project that has touched the lives of over 500 women and their families.”

O.E. TELLS HER STORY ON STARTING AND MAINTAINING HER SMALL BUSINESS

A single parent of two shares her success story. “After my retirement, I started buying homemade disinfectants and retailing it in bottle and rubber. I got access to this grant, which enabled me to add the sale of kerosene. I am now into small scale production of disinfectant which I supply to my customers from the inland and island who buy from me to retail. From my business, I take care of my personal needs and also assist my children. I believe in the next two years my business will expand. One key thing I have learnt from micro credit is business management and I have also improved my skills in book keeping and savings. “

D.E. TELLS HER STORY SELLING GENERAL GOODS AND TELEPHONE CALLING CARDS.



A widow with seven children. “Running my small business of buying and selling of imported products i.e. wrappers, provision, soap, detergent etc has being my major source of income. Because I work hard, I have been able to stand by my husband to build a good home even after his passing. As a widow, the pressure of taking care of my children became a burden to me and my business started to collapse; but when I was introduced to the credit program hope began to build up in me.

The grant helped me to start-up my business by selling wares and call cards at my door post in Abuloma. I am faithful to the rules and my business is growing and I believe in two to three years, you will see a huge difference.”

H.O.: HER SUCCESS AS AN ENTREPRENEUR AND FIREWOOD CUTTER



H. O., a mother of five and two grandchildren. “For the past 30 years I have been going to the mangrove forest to cut firewood and sell alongside managing a grocery shop which serves as an alternative income when I am not able to go to the mangrove. Since I came in contact with the micro credit scheme, my grocery business has greatly improved.

Keeping to the conditions of the grant with diligence and hard work and being prudent in savings, I will say I am more comfortable in my new building, my freezer is working and my stock is growing with new products. My secrets are very easy and simple; I manage my business well by making sure I practice the book keeping skills they taught us. This has made the burden light as I am currently seeing my two grandchildren through school.”

M.S. SELLS FOOD ITEMS

“As a young woman I grew up to establish my livelihood in the mangrove forest by harvesting periwinkle and other sea food which was common to women; when the water is bad I stay at my door post to sell pancake and other small chops. I was not exposed to any form of formal education so I take my business very serious. I don’t believe in idleness and that has been my watch word. I have stopped going to the mangrove forest and



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concentrate on my petty business which I have included dry corn, plantain, dry fish and palm oil with the help of the grant. With hard work and diligence, I was able use the grant to improve my petty trade. Every day I save a small amount of money from my sales and put aside a little for upkeep of my household. I am happy, my husband and children are happy and very supportive.”

R.I. TELLS HER STORY ON STARTING AND MAINTAINING HER SMALL BUSINESS

52 year-old woman and a widow with five children shares her outstanding achievement as a petty trader. “I grew up as a business woman because of the training I received from my mother in my childhood days. When my husband was alive I was doing restaurant business in our parlor. The business faded out immediately my husband died in the year 2001 because of that I was not able to manage my family affair, children school fees and feeding and maintaining the business at the same time. I got to know micro credit project in the year 2006 in a community meeting at Ogu.

The first loan I received was ten thousand naira and I started selling articles of candies, biscuit fried groundnut etc at my door post. I paid back my loan between the period stated for us to repay back and I was shortlisted for the next batch.



With the grant I got from this programme, more goods were added to my business and I was able to take care of my children and personal needs. Today I have a different story, from a road side article seller, I have been able to use this small room in my building as a store. From my daily saving, I bought a fridge and I am selling soft drinks and pure water with my articles and provision business. One of my children is in higher institution and I am assisting him from my business.”

B.I. MOTHER AND BOUTIQUE SELLER

A 45 year-old woman with three children. I started selling clothes in the year 2004. I used to go to nearby major market to buy the clothes, both male and female wears. Through one of my relation, I joined the AMA IBIGOSE WAKIRIKE WOMEN CO-OPERATIVE in Ele community of Ogu/Bolo LGA from where I was nominated for this grant. And now I can confidently say that my business is stable and I have also improved on the quality of wares I sell. “

