

A Story from Ethiopia – Ato's Story

A story of struggle



Ato Birhanu Fayamo lives in Ethiopia and is a member of the Bereket SHG (Self Help Group). Life hasn't been easy for Ato or his family. As part of a poor community, he struggled with poverty and making ends meet.

A farmer, Ato owned a small piece of land and was dependant on his farming to provide a livelihood. He used more traditional methods of farming which are often less effective (he didn't know of anything else) and, because of a lack of money and resources, didn't use fertilisers to

help the crops grow. As such, the income wasn't enough, and Ato was unable to provide for his family.

Life on the up

But life began to change for Ato when he joined a SHG. With the support of the group he started to put money aside and continued to save for a whole year. Eventually, he took out a loan from the group to run a small business project of his own. He set up a small barbers in his local village. Six months later, his income had already increased!

From the profits, Ato bought more hairdressing tools and expanded. Since then he has earned enough money to build a house for his family. He now has three people working with him in the business



Praise be to God

Thanks to the work of the self-help groups, Ato's life – and many others just like his – have been transformed. With tears of joy Ato says:

I was dependent on other people's resource as I could not afford my own household's, even basic needs, but now I am free from stress to fulfill my family's needs.

Today, Ato and his family are happy, flourishing, and enjoying life to the full. They praise the Lord and the self-help group for their wonderful success.

Prayer points

- Give thanks to God that Ato and his family have discovered a new life and are building a successful business and income. Pray that Ato's work continues to grow and thrive.
- Lift up the work of our self-help groups – how wonderful that they are working to transform people's lives so that they can help lift themselves out of poverty.
- Pray for all those who struggle to make ends meet; that the cycle of poverty will be broken and that they will have all they need.