

Connected Church Update from our Tearfund Partner Kale Heywet Church Ethiopia – October 2018

Salina's Story



Salina* is 40 years old and a mother of four. She lives in Shashemene, a town situated 250km from Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

Circumstances were not easy for Salina. She was widowed four years ago and has had to shoulder all the household responsibilities; taking on a full-time role in parenting four children as a single mother. For her, the days were tough - it was difficult to save money to cover the living costs for the family.

Things started to change for Salina when she heard about **Self Help Groups (SHG's)** that were being run by the local Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church.

One of the SHG facilitators who is involved with training and equipping groups in Church Community Mobilisation Development (CCMD), is from Salina's village. So, Salina learned a little more about the concept - and soon agreed to establish one with her neighbours! Their SHG consists of 16 members and it is called Besufekad, which means 'by His will.'

A Business Opportunity

When the group first started, each member saved 3 birr - just under a penny each.

Putting their training into practice, the Besufekad SHG began sharing loans so they could start engaging in small businesses.

For her first loan through the group, Salina received 500 birr - around £14. With this she was able to manage her small shop better and was able to pay back her loan to the group within the repayment period.

Her second loan of 1000 birr - £28, was used to expand her business even further. Her profits grew significantly.

An expanding Entrepreneurial Spirit

Salina's entrepreneurial spirit has boomed. Her loan capacity has grown six-fold and last year she received a loan of 6,000 birr (£167). She has used this to develop a new business idea - the building of two rooms which she can rent out for 1,200 birr (£33.30) a month.

Salina's fourth loan which amounted to 8,000 birr (£222), enabling her to build a cafeteria which sells local fast foods, snacks; drinks.

The Results!

Without a doubt, Salina's life has been transformed by Self Help Groups. Her entrepreneurial spirit has been a powerful resource. Salina is now able to finance school and university fees for her children.

'Small business management training has been one of the most important trainings I have received. It opened our eyes to explore business options with the resources we have.'

Salina - (*Salina's name has been changed)

Your Prayers Please

- Thank God for transforming Salina's life.
- Thank God for the teams encouraging Self Help Groups.
- Pray that more people will form their own SHG's
- Thank you

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