

# The power of partnership

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2015



## Empowered mothers, healthy kids! Microcredit mums TANZANIA

OVER 25 MILLION people in Tanzania are living below the poverty line. In rural communities there are little to no opportunities for families to provide for their children to ensure they are healthy and educated. The Salvation Army established the **Microcredit Mums** project to support the poorest women in rural communities, creating opportunities for them through a community-based savings and loans scheme.

**Microcredit** exists to empower women, not only so that they can provide for their families, but to help them realise their dreams and potential as they become confident agents of change in their communities and role models for their children.

**"I now have an income and I am able to**

**send my children to school and provide them with daily meals and clothing"**

Halima was one of the poorest women residing in a rural village where Microcredit Mums operates. She had always hoped to start her own business, but had no support or financial resources to try.

Two years ago, she was divorced by her husband, leaving her with two children, no source of income and no other option than to beg on the streets.

A year ago, Halima heard about The Salvation Army Microcredit Mums through a Salvation Army officer. "At first, I was very scared because I was not used to loan services, however I went to the seminars and workshops. I met other women who were already part of the program who encouraged and empowered me to join and

start my business".

Halima received her first Microcredit loan and established a business buying fresh foods from local farmers and selling them at her village. Halima is now one of the most successful women in the program. Her business has rapidly expanded. She now leases land to others who want to realise the same dream she once had. She now grows her own fruits and vegetables and is employing a team of local staff to help her.

**"I have a great dream, that one day I will own an even bigger shop and will become an excellent entrepreneur"**

Thanks to generous supporters like you, more mothers are getting the opportunity to not only provide for their families, but to realise their dreams and empower their children to have dreams of their own.

# Safe Children India

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INDIA HAS ONE of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, where one in three girls becomes a child bride. Child marriage often affects children from low socio-economic homes. They are married to become servants or trafficked into prostitution. To combat this, The Salvation Army has established close to 600 self-help groups (SHG's) over the past 10 years, to help women and children learn, grow and become empowered citizens of India.

SHG's provide a platform of empowerment, learning and development

for women and children. Women who have participated in this program have become confident and independent, they are better equipped to prosper in life through improved nutrition, hygiene and health practices, improved literacy skills, and keeping their children safe.

## Empowered women take a stance for their children.

The pupils of a remote village school had no access to meals due to the limited facilities available at the school.

The women in the SHG heard about this problem, and lobbied to the Education

Development Officer (EDO) to provide the school with a grant to build a kitchen. To ensure the kitchen was built to the standards required, the women from the SHG were employed to oversee this project.

The children now receive nutritious meals every day which has seen an improvement in their education.

Through the **Safe Children India Program**, women are empowered to stand up for injustices in their community and are able to influence change for the better.





## Safe and Sound Schools **Haiti**

**THANKS TO YOUR support of The Salvation Army Safe and Sound Haiti program, Eddie is now receiving an education and hopes to become a Doctor.**

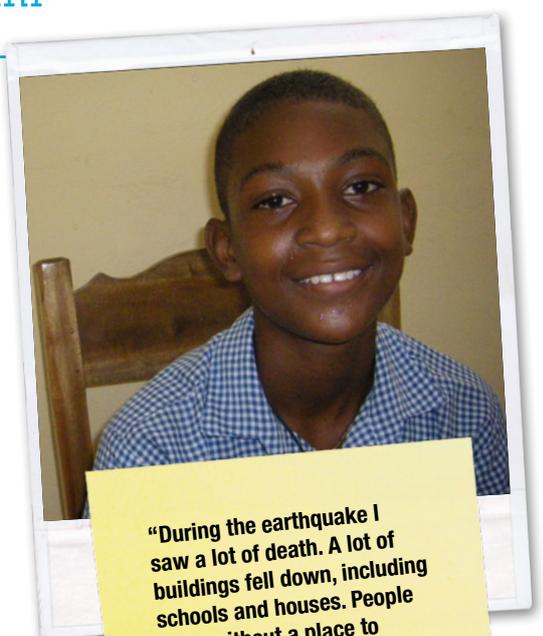
In January of 2010, Port au Prince, the Capital of Haiti, -as well as other rural communities- was devastated by a monster earthquake that literally destroyed the city. It claimed over 230,000 lives and left 400,000 children orphaned.

After the earthquake, only 20% of the children eligible for school were enrolled. With a national education emergency, The Salvation Army International Development dedicated funds to rebuild schools and provide educational resources to improve the education

system of Haiti.

Through better equipped schools, the teachers are now able to offer better education: "The buildings are now safe and the children are able to learn in a nice environment. The hygiene of the toilets has improved so much and the children are no longer getting sick. We now have desks for the children to write on and a chalk board to learn from"

One of the children affected by the earthquake was 13 year old Eddie who was left homeless. His family fled from Haiti to seek a better quality of life. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors around Australia, Eddie and many children like him have been able to return to Haiti and are getting a safe education and are becoming the next generation of leaders in that nation.



**"During the earthquake I saw a lot of death. A lot of buildings fell down, including schools and houses. People were without a place to live; so many people lived out on the street. Including my parents as our house was destroyed, so we were homeless."- Eddie, student**

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## CALL US TO MAKE A ONE OFF DONATION

We appreciate any donation you are able to give, all donations received go to those most in need.

## SIGN THE UP FOR SCHOOLS PETITION

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If you would like any further information about our new Salvos Sponsorship program, please contact us via:

**Phone:** (02) 9266 9880 **Website:** [salvos.org.au/said/](http://salvos.org.au/said/)  
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