

Words of HOPE

August 2020

An update from **Get HOPE Global**

*Get HOPE Global
envisions a world where
at-risk women are
hopeful, empowered,
and free!*

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From the Director

Have you seen her beautiful face? She may be smiling, may have tired eyes, but she has a look of determination. This hopeful woman made the decision to join a group in her community committed to learning and growing together. She desires to start a small business or to improve the one she may already have. Life is difficult for her and she yearns for a better tomorrow. Together with the other women in her group she will learn to be accountable, to encourage the others, to repay her tiny business loan, and to save from her profits for a rainy day.

Perhaps you've noticed her name and have taken time to read a bit of her story. She is lovingly referred to as a HOPE woman.

Each Wednesday one of our HOPE women is featured in our #WomanOfTheWeek photo collection on our social media platforms. Weekly as she posts, Michelle, our Administrative Director, gives us a remarkable opportunity to see and know these strong and determined women. I am grateful for the reminder of these individual souls, seen and loved by God, who are overcoming challenges each day.

Look for her face, read her story - and pray for her.



*Julie Melton
Executive Director*



Spanish Translation

HOPE business training is now available in Spanish! We are pleased to have a Spanish translation of **HOPE Business Program: Starting and Growing Your Business**. We have offered the new materials to current curriculum owners in Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, and Argentina. We look forward to seeing what new doors God will open!

*Class in Cambodia*

New Training Group in Cambodia

HOPE business training groups began in several villages in Cambodia in 2019 with over 35 women participating. Village savings groups as well as a local microfinance institution funded the women's loans. As COVID-19 spread in Cambodia, the groups suspended their weekly training meetings. During these hard times and the slowing of business activities, the women were able to draw from their savings in order to meet their most critical needs.

As the virus began to settle down, groups resumed meeting. On June 4, our local leaders, Samoeun and Navy, made the 3 hour trip from Phnom Penh to the Prey Veng province to launch a new HOPE business training group there. These 10 women, led by 2 Program Leaders who received training at our Train the Trainer conference in 2018, will be ready to apply for their HOPE loans next month!

HOPE in the Midst of COVID-19

Despite the global upheaval of the past several months, the work of HOPE has continued. It is no surprise to report, of course, that COVID-19 has impacted our groups. In collaboration with our local leaders, we decided to postpone microloan programs in Tanzania and Cambodia and to extend current loan repayment schedules in Ghana. HOPE sent emergency relief funds to our HOPE women in Tanzania, Ghana, Uganda, and Kenya. Our local leaders used these funds to help meet critical needs by providing food staples and hand sanitizer, organizing soap and mask-making projects, and conducting COVID-19 education. We have been blessed by the reports, photos, and videos of the many who were mobilized and helped during this crisis.

Thank you - for your donations through #GivingTuesdayNow and directly to our emergency relief fund. Your generous gifts totaled nearly \$5,000 in only 1 week!

Thank you - for your prayers for the HOPE women during this time when business has slowed or shut down.

*Relief Gift*

Supply distribution in Ghana

*New Loans*

Ridia will expand her salon with a HOPE loan

Tanzania Loans

Under the direction of Alex Samwel, Get HOPE Global is again sending loan funds to Tanzania. At the beginning of March we were preparing to provide loans for 165 women in 11 different training groups. The restrictions caused by COVID-19 caused a delay in the loan process, but businesses are again able to launch. We sent loan money

for 2 groups in June and money for 3 more groups in July. We plan to send funds for the remaining 6 groups by September. We pray that these loans will be a valuable tool to launch and rebuild businesses. We look forward to the possibility of visiting Alex and these loan recipients in July 2021.



Spotlight: Strategic Initiatives

Our mission is to transform the lives of at-risk women through redemptive, faith-based business training and support. In pursuit of that mission, the HOPE board has identified our goals and strategic initiatives for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Here is a look at some of the things we are aiming for:

Programs and Loans

Striving for the most effective programs & ministry

- Invest in leadership development for national leaders
- Develop a method of collecting & recording the long term impact of our work
- Focusing our ministry on several strategic countries, seeking ways to improve and broaden connections already in place
- Complete a vision & accountability trip to Tanzania, rescheduled for July 2021
- Complete plans to conduct a Train The Trainer conference in Haiti

Partnerships

Becoming known and building relationships

- Establish a corporate partnership
- Establish a ministry partnership with an additional large organization
- Exhibit at several national conferences

Vision Funding

Faithfully pursuing God's provision

- Renew current grants & pursue opportunities for others
- Update promotional materials & videos

How to Help

Your involvement allows us to pursue these goals. Here are a few ways to participate:

- Use **Amazon Smile** and select HOPE to receive a portion of the proceeds from your online shopping.
- Connect your **Kroger/King Soopers shopping card** to HOPE through Community Rewards.



- Donate to the **Get HOPE program fund, loan fund, or emergency relief fund.**
- Get more ideas from the **"Get Involved"** page on our website.

Meet Leokabia

From Alex Samwel, Regional Director, Tanzania

Leokabia M has been a widow for more than 15 years. She had responsibility for her 4 children. Her first boy, because of the economic problems, did not have a chance to go to school. Her two daughters also did not get the chance to go to school. Now the last boy is having a problem getting started. He was in class 7, (the last one in elementary school) and was supposed to take the exam so that he could continue to secondary school.

Leokabia sold tomatoes. From one bucket of tomatoes, she was supposed to provide three meals a day for her family. From that one bucket of tomatoes, she was supposed to give them clothes. From that same bucket of tomatoes she was supposed to take care of their health. Things were bad.

Now that we have partnered with Get HOPE Global, this woman joined us. She attended the business classes for 8 weeks and then we gave her a loan. We trained on honesty, on marketing, and how to differentiate her business from others. She did well in the market and from there she started to generate more income, and then more income. Her business started to change, and after the classes, after the studies, her last boy got selected to join the secondary school. So, from the business training and the improvements in her business, she could supply his school uniform, books and all the requirements for the boy to join the secondary school. Now as we speak, among the four children that this widow has, this last boy has the chance to join secondary school. It was not that the others were not being brave, not because the others were not being good. No, there was just no money to send them to school.



In Tanzania, in Mwanza, from the way we were raised by our parents is that you have to take care of yourself. People can contribute for the wedding ceremony. People can contribute to your birthday. People can contribute for your funeral, but no one can contribute for your education. So, we have been facing a lot of children lacking the opportunity to go to school.

So this is the story of Leokabia.

Note from Get HOPE Global: We know that even one educated child in the family can improve the economic stability of the entire family!