

Poverty and Hope Appeal:

Dec 2018 update from Burkina Faso



Innovative credit scheme lifting farmers out of poverty

Partnered with Christian Aid, supported by Poverty and Hope since 2015.

'In rural areas, the very poor couldn't get credit from any institution, preventing them from buying seeds and fertiliser. Our intervention helped them get credit, which in turn assisted with income generating activities. ' - Andre Gountan Head of Christian's Partner BRACED, Action Contre La Faim, supported by Poverty and Hope since 2016.

In Burkina Faso, one traditional means of accessing credit is known as warrantage or the inventory credit system. The concept is simple. At the end of the rainy season, a farmer will set aside a portion of their surplus harvest in a warrantage warehouse. In return, the farmer is given a sum of money by a microfinance company equivalent to the market value of the crop that they have set aside. With this credit, they are then free to invest in materials and income-generating activities. With the support of Poverty and Hope, Christian Aid's partner in Burkina Faso has worked to open this scheme up to vulnerable groups in rural areas.

Teblebsom Saba was one of the first to try out the new system last year in the town of Bagaré, where Christian Aid's partner ODE had constructed a warehouse for the municipality. Depositing a sack of groundnuts and a sack of beans she was given a loan of approximately £40 in return.



Teblebsom Saba with her harvest in social warrantage.

Over the course of the dry season she used the money to make cakes and brew millet beer with this money, making over £90 in profit. Upon paying her

debts, she also sold her beans for a profit and used the remaining bag of groundnuts for seed, generously giving some to her daughter-in-law to do the same.

Sadly, Teblebsom's husband died last year, leaving her with a household of six to take care of by herself. While a great loss for her, the profits she made in the warrantage system meant that the economic impact on her family was thankfully mitigated.

Stability for the future

While this innovation depends on farmers producing surplus to sell, the benefits to profit, farm yields and household management are significant. Through 11 programmes of warrantage BRACED have created access to finance for 4248 community members, 2209 of which are women.

This season, Teblebsom, whose name means 'to hold well', will store four sacks of groundnuts in the warehouse, with the aim of purchasing more groundnuts to process, adding value to the stock and securing her family's stability even further.

Rochester Diocese Poverty and Hope Appeal: UK registered charity number 249339 partners with Christian Aid to support this project.

For every £1 you raise for this project, the European Union contributes £10. Christian Aid uses 85% of the funds raised through Community Partnerships to support the projects, and 15% to support the work of all of our teams based both in the UK and overseas. This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Christian Aid and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. This information is reproduced with the permission of Christian Aid. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851, UK company no. 5171525.

