

SNAPSHOTS

from the
FIELD



Sunny Byaruhanga, Buswekera, Uganda, 2021

selfhelpafrica.org



**Self Help
Africa**



ADAPTING AND INNOVATING TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE LIVES

Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated headlines around the world and been foremost in all our minds.

Despite the challenges created by COVID-19, the focus for Self Help Africa has remained steadfast - empowering small-holder farmers to rise out of extreme poverty, become more resilient, and take control of their future.

This means continually **adapting and innovating** to support families and communities in growing different types of crops, train in applying climate-smart techniques that can help produce more robust and predictable yields; and ensuring they can access markets and fair prices for their produce.

Tekele, Consolata and Joyce demonstrate how being courageous enough to adapt and innovate can have a positive impact for their families and communities.

TEKELE - ETHIOPIA

In Gabisaa village, Ethiopia Tekleye Gebre (above) worried that he wouldn't be able to provide for his family. Each year his harvest of traditional crops declined as the soil and unpredictable climate hindered his efforts.

Then, Tekele went on field visits with Self Help Africa, and saw how others were successfully growing alternate crops on similar land.

He decided to join a Self Help Africa initiative in his own village; and received vegetable seed and training in horticulture production. A modern community irrigation scheme was introduced to provide a reliable source of water for vegetables.

Now, Tekele's income and harvest has improved *"Our lives have changed. I'm proud that all five of our children are able to attend school,"* he said.

Enterprising Innovators

CONSOLATA - KENYA

Cotton growing in Kenya has been practiced for generations, but it isn't always easy, or profitable.

For small scale farmers like Consolata Anyango, the money she earned from cotton was poor. *"I wasn't able to afford to send my children to school."* she says.

Consolata got the chance to turn things around, thanks to Self Help Africa's AgriFi Challenge Fund, which enabled Consolata and other women growers to both increase their yields, and also earn more from the cotton that they have sell. Access to better quality seed, and training in improved farming methods were the



key to these improvements.

Now Consolata, the mother of a young family, is earning a steady income from cotton, and is also spending less time transporting her bales to market, thanks to the establishment of a cotton collection and buying centre nearby.

JOYCE - UGANDA

Joyce Akelo is a member of a Self Help Africa young farmers' group in north-eastern Uganda.

For Joyce, and the 24 other young people in the Atiira Farmers Group, ginger was a crop they were not familiar with, but its been a gamble that's paid off!

With support from Self Help Africa - the group secured a contract to sell their crop, for a fair price to one of Uganda's leading ginger processors.

Joyce and the rest of group now earn between €150-220 each for their ginger crop, and look forward to firmly establishing ginger growing into their small farms. The group sells approximately



70% of what's harvested, and keep the remainder to plant for the new season.

Before the group was set up Joyce says that life was difficult, as it an be hard for young people to get a start in farming. *"Working together is making a positive effect on the lives of every youth in our group at Atiira parish,"* she adds.

ONE MILLIONTH TREE!

On a small hill overlooking Lake Ziway in Ethiopia's Great Rift Valley, a group of schoolkids gathered to plant trees.

This small act, last March, marked a big milestone - the formal culmination of a year-long campaign to plant one million new trees in Africa.

The 30 small saplings planted by the children and their parents outside Abossa village brought to 480,000 the number of tree seedlings planted at Lake Ziway, and the **One Millionth Tree** to be planted as part of a year long campaign!

Launched in February 2020, 'One Million Trees' set out to plant a million trees in Africa, as well as 100,000 native trees in Ireland and the UK.

Sponsored by Ireland's premium yogurt producers, Glenisk, and featured on millions of pots of organic bio pot yogurt, the campaign captured the public



Tree planting in Abossa, Lake Ziway, Ethiopia

Are you a small business owner?
Now, you can offset the carbon footprint of your business with Self Help Africa.

Contact
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for more information.

imagination, and thousands of people across Ireland donated.

The Self Help Africa teams and local partners in Africa planted trees in projects from Uganda and Kenya to Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, while here at home, our partners Trees on the Land helped plant native trees in different locations across Ireland.

In March 2021 a new collaboration, Another One Million Trees was launched with Glenisk, with a similar goal to plant trees in Africa and Ireland over the next twelve months. Find out more at www.selfhelpafrica.org/onemilliontrees



RESTORING LAND COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Self Help Africa's Kenya team joined local partners to plant 10,000 new trees on degraded lands along one of the most important water catchments in Baringo County, northern Kenya.

The tree planting took place at Chemususu, Baringo's largest water catchment area. The catchment area is the source of many rivers and streams draining through Baringo and provides hundreds of thousands of communities with water for domestic use, livestock, and crop production.



However, the area is subject to adverse climate shocks often resulting in extreme conditions of drought, floods and more recently an invasion of desert locusts. Planting trees will help to restore 20,000 hectares of degraded lands including several major water catchments across the region.

Environmental restoration efforts are a key part of improving the future security of local communities. In Baringo, Self Help Africa is working with 10,000 families who are particularly vulnerable to drought and floods, which can lead to food insecurity, reduced incomes, and forced migration.

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

Working with our local teams and partners, Self Help Africa supported efforts to disseminate information and promote safety measures to curb the pandemic in the countries where we work.

Covid-19 related awareness-raising was embedded into all our programme activities. Handwashing, sanitising facilities and masks were distributed to our staff, partners and smallholders, while mobile phone services were also used to disseminate information on Covid-19 prevention measures.

In Kenya and Uganda, we supported farmers and agricultural cooperatives to overcome market disruptions by securing new markets for their crops during lockdown.



In Malawi, Self Help Africa distributed information leaflets, soap, jerry cans and other vital equipment.

EMERGENCY ALLIANCE

Self Help Africa is a founder member the Irish Emergency Alliance (IEA) – which launched its inaugural appeal in response to the pandemic last Autumn. The appeal raised over €300,000 from the Irish public. Self Help Africa invested its share of funds raised to assist affected communities in Kenya.



Will you hang tough with your colleagues, be the sole survivor on your team, or put your back against the wall with your friends?

Why not do all this, while helping FUNdraise for Self Help Africa?

Join us for 'Ireland's Fittest Friends,' an action packed day on Kilruddery Estate, Bray, Co. Wicklow on Saturday, October 16th, for a day filled with fun, challenges and competition for ALL abilities.

We're recruiting teams of 4 people NOW so gather your friends, neighbours, colleagues or family to make up your team!

Places limited - Fundraising/ sponsorship is required - Self Help Africa will assist you!

Contact

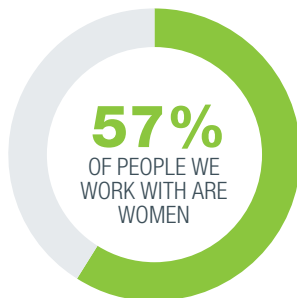
**louise.rogan@selfhelpafrica.org
to register today!**

A DECADE OF POSITIVE CHANGE

In the last decade, Self Help Africa has supported more than 1.4 million households in programmes across 11 countries.

GENDER BALANCE

In the past 10 years, there has been a steady, year on year increase in the number of women farmers with whom Self Help Africa works. In 2010, just 43% of people we worked with were women. Last year, this figure was 57%.



14%
INCREASE
IN 10 YEARS

CLIMATE SMART' FARMING

Climate smart farming practices seek to both increase food security and resilience while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2013, 83,000 households reported adopting certain climate smart farming practices, last year, this figure was 341,000, or 62% of households we worked with.



83,000

'CLIMATE-SMART'
HOUSEHOLDS

49.1% of all households
in 2013



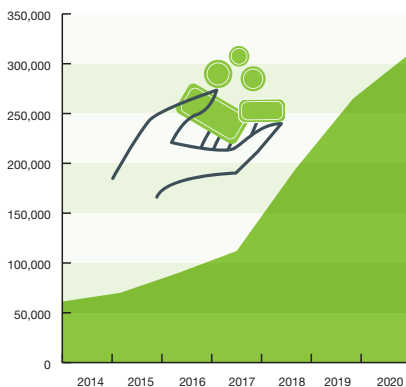
341,000

'CLIMATE-SMART'
HOUSEHOLDS

62.2% of all households
in 2020

ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES

In 2014 just 20.3% of households working with the organisation reported that they had access to services where they could save, or could borrow money, if required. By 2020, that number had increased to 59% of households, as more people are involved in VSLAs (village savings and loans schemes), SACCOs (savings and credit cooperatives) established in their communities.



Miriam Lemba in a school garden in Zambia

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FARMING FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE