



2015

ANNUAL REPORT

selfhelpafrica.org



Self Help
Africa



Purity Mulenga, Malela Village,
Northern Province, Zambia.



Malidadi Chilongo, Kalonga, Malawi.

Farming for Africa's Future

2015 was a landmark year for Self Help Africa. We reached more people than ever before in the fight to end extreme hunger and poverty in Africa.

For most people in Europe however, the enduring images from 2015 will be those of desperate refugees and economic migrants seeking sanctuary in Europe. Many of them are fleeing not war in Syria, but poverty in Africa.

As the head of an international agricultural development organisation working in Africa, I am often asked why we don't work to tackle the human tragedy that has seen record numbers fleeing their homes.

My answer to such questions is a short one. We are.

For it is only by improving the livelihoods of rural poor people in Africa that we will ultimately provide them with an acceptable alternative to the choices currently being made by millions, as they uproot their families from their communities to seek 'a better life' somewhere else.

Only by boosting growth in economies, creating jobs, and ensuring that countries and communities can provide a future for their people, will the current challenge of migration be resolved.

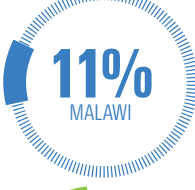
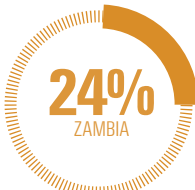
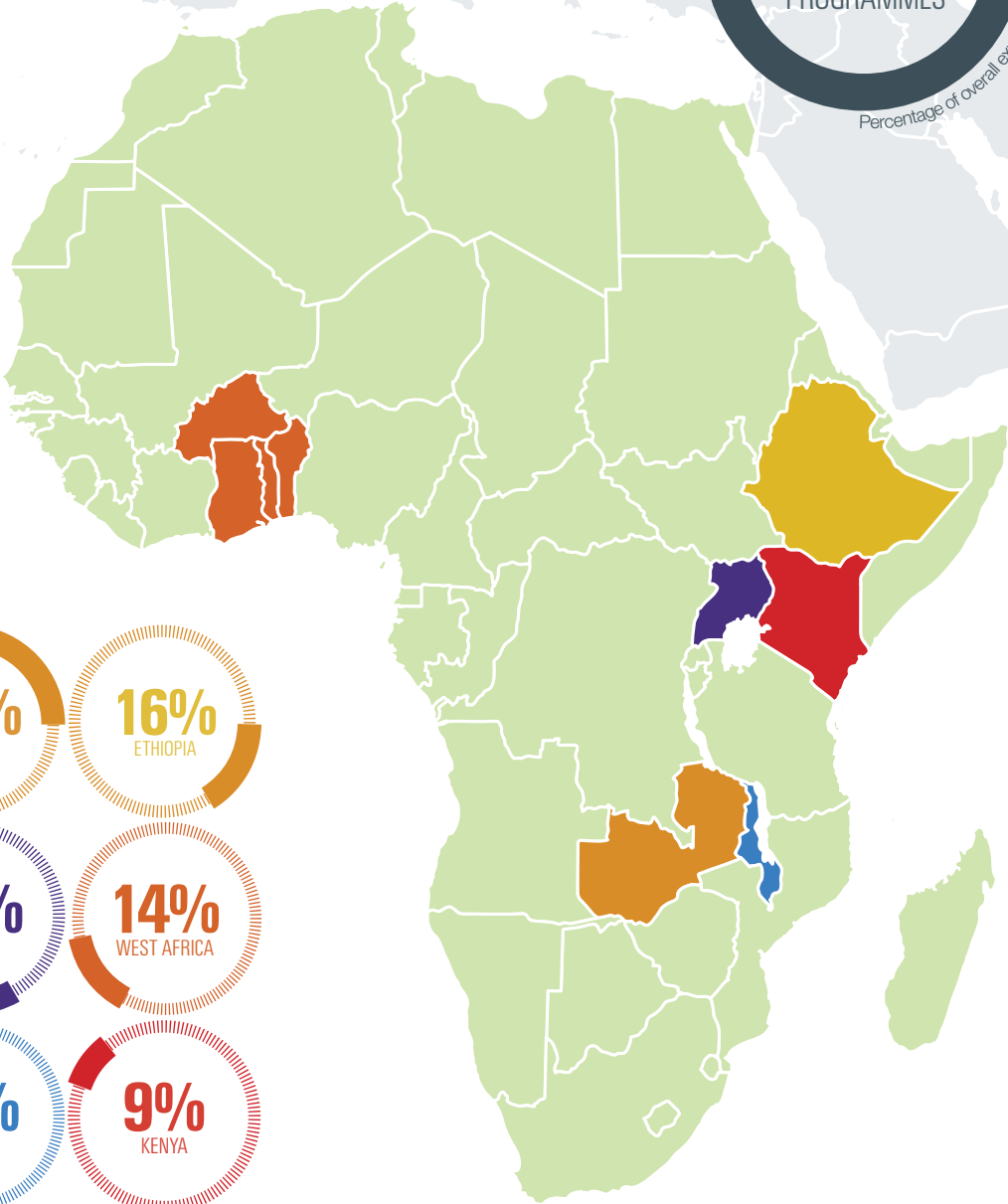
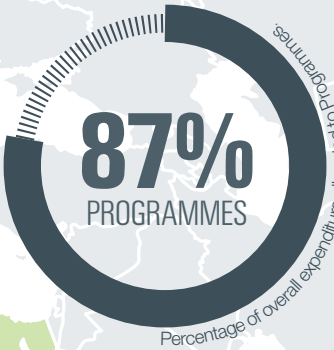
For too long we have failed to properly solve the problem of extreme poverty that casts a shadow across developing countries. There are almost 800 million people worldwide living in extreme poverty - that's one in nine of our global population, and proof that we are continuing to fail the poorest and the most vulnerable.

At Self Help Africa, our focus will remain on supporting rural poor communities to support themselves through an innovative mix of agricultural and enterprise development activities.

We know how to help lift communities across Africa out of poverty; our goal is to continue, year on year, to deliver these solutions to many more of them.

Raymond Jordan

Raymond Jordan
Chief Executive Officer



ZAMBIA: Self Help Africa's largest project is a five-year, Irish Aid-funded local development project that commenced in Northern Province in early 2013.

Programme focus is on two key areas: sustainable agriculture and nutrition.

Current projects cover: food and nutrition security, research into and production of improved varieties of seeds, rural enterprise development, savings and credit, income generation, watershed management, sustainable agriculture and environmental rehabilitation.

WEST AFRICA: Self Help Africa's West Africa programme operates across four countries - Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo and Benin. Projects are implemented through local partners, with the focus on adding value to farm production and creating links between small-scale agricultural producers and private sector companies.

Because of the hot, dry climate and unpredictable weather patterns of the region, there is a particular emphasis on promoting farming approaches that are 'climate-smart', and enable farming communities to diversify their production.

MALAWI: Self Help Africa is working on a combination of directly implemented and partner-led projects in Malawi. The programme goal, to support smallholder farming communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods, is in line with the government's current Growth and Development Strategy II.

The largest single project is DISCOVER, a five-year collaborative venture with a number of international partners that seeks to support households in adapting to climate change. DISCOVER is at its mid-point, with our work taking place in the far north, in Karonga district.

ETHIOPIA: Increasing farm production, supporting new enterprise and developing market opportunities for farmers is at the core of Self Help Africa's work in Ethiopia.

Current projects in the country also focus on strengthening community-based seed production, improving the resilience of communities to a changing climate, and improving productivity and livestock value chains.

UGANDA: Self Help Africa is the lead agricultural adviser in a USAID-funded development project in Uganda. The nutrition-focused scheme is underway in 15 districts across the country and is one of Self Help Africa's largest projects.

Elsewhere, work is underway to develop community-based seed enterprises, to promote agri-based enterprises and to tackle the impact of climate change on rural farming households.

KENYA: Supporting smallholder farmers to move from subsistence to prosperity is central to our programme work in Kenya.

Our largest scheme in Kenya is supporting 20,000 people to increase farm production and establish enterprises in the Keringet region of the drought-prone Rift Valley Province. The project focusses primarily on dairy and potato production.

OUR BELIEFS:

We believe that food security is a fundamental human right and, in this age of increasing global prosperity, it is an outrage that more than 800 million people suffer from chronic hunger.

We believe in the capacity of the people we work with and we work to empower people to become agents of their own development.

We have a strong belief in solidarity over charity; that interventions can only be solutions if we work in tandem, as equal partners, with local authorities at the community, regional and national level.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals we believe in long-term, sustainable, market-based solutions that respect the natural environment.



Climate-Smart

Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions on earth to global warming. This situation is made worse by its poor state of economic development and by the limited capability of many countries and communities to adapt to a changing climate.

Baba Wedrago, Sika Village,
Burkina Faso.

Agricultural production in the belt of countries below the Sahara Desert is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with some projections calculating that global warming could see production of cereal crops alone fall by up to 30% across the region in the coming decade.

Global warming could see production of cereal crops alone fall by up to 30%.

This is a challenge confronting Self Help Africa in our bid to lift millions of rural poor people out of poverty. The effects that climate change is having on the length of growing seasons, and on the reliability of rain-fed farming, combined with the threat posed by destructive flooding is making it harder for the most vulnerable – small-scale farming communities – to manage their land and the production that they need to feed their families.

Anecdotal evidence of weather changes are now commonplace, which is why climate-smart agricultural practices are being promoted across our projects, to support communities whose food production systems are at risk.

In the past year extreme weather events that have been blamed on global warming have had a devastating effect on huge numbers of people in two countries Self Help Africa works.

In January 2015, the President of Malawi declared a state of emergency in more than a dozen districts because of flooding that affected over one million people. Less than a year later, Malawi faced a severe drought, with hundreds of thousands of farmers affected, and up to 2.8 million people at risk of food shortages, according to the UN World Food Programme.

Meanwhile, in Ethiopia, chronic drought aggravated by an intensified El Niño weather pattern left up to 10 million people at risk of food insecurity, in a country where up to 90% of farming households rely on rain-fed agriculture.



Baba Wedrago, Sika Village, Burkina Faso.



Seed production initiatives that improve community access to early-yielding and drought-tolerant crop varieties, farming techniques such as 'zero tillage' land preparation that provides an alternative to ploughing and the consequent loss of soil moisture, as well as measures that encourage and promote dry season irrigated horticulture are all central to a programme of work being carried out by Self Help Africa to support communities to cope with a changing climate.

Education, information and different farming approaches are also central to this climate-smart approach, with alternative crop varieties, including hardy dry land staples like sorghum and millet, plus root vegetables such as cassava, being promoted as substitutes to more vulnerable cereal crops.

New Tech Solutions

New technologies have never been as important as they are today in the fight to end hunger and poverty in Africa.

Data-gathering methods to assess and analyse information, early warning systems, and telecommunication technologies to share and disseminate information are all being harnessed today in a bid to improve the efficiency, impact and reach of our programmes to end poverty.

During 2015, mobile phone technology – used to share knowledge and information – assumed a central role in the work of Self Help Africa in sub-Saharan Africa.

For most smallholder farmers across Africa, one of the main challenges to increasing

productivity is the lack of reliable farming information. How can you improve your work when there's no available information on improved work practices?

Only 5% of rural households have electricity, but upwards of 65% have access to mobiles.

Farming advice is expensive to provide on a one-on-one basis, so for many years Self Help Africa has used a 'lead farmer' model, where information is channeled at a farming community through one model farmer. This cuts the cost of information transfer.

In recent years, the uptake of mobile technology across Africa has offered another, much more cost-effective way, of reaching farmers.

Self Help Africa and its mobile partner Human Network International (HNI) have helped to pioneer the development of demand-driven farming information through mobile phone networks.

In Malawi, Uganda, Burkina Faso and Zambia, we are now partnering with a range of mobile network providers to provide free, on-demand farming information across a range of



Charity Kamwala, Nsuda village,
Northern Province, Zambia.



Wendwesen Testfaye, Buee, Ethiopia.

crops to farmers. Farmers dial in to the service and, using touch-tone technology, access a voice message about a specific crop or farming practice.

For mobile network providers, this free information is a compelling reason for subscribers to continue using their network. For Self Help Africa, it's a low-cost way of reaching tens of thousands of farmers with relevant, crop-specific farming information at the right time of the season.

In Malawi, Self Help Africa has joined with a range of government and civil society organisations to agree on farming advice for crops ranging from maize and peanut to rice and cassava. That service has recorded an average of 36,000 calls per month from farmers across the country.

In a country where only 5% of rural households have electricity, but upwards of 65% have access to mobiles, the ability of farmers to access information via telephone is invaluable.

Most mobile users across Africa still use non-smart phones, so a service based on voice messaging is still critical. However, with the increasing adoption of lower-cost smart phones in these markets, Self Help Africa is about to pilot messaging which allows users to stream video content for free to these phones.

This pilot work will be aimed at delivering information not to farmers, but to extension workers - those employed by government or civil society organisations to teach farmers about new and improved practices.

Self Help Africa hopes to continue to roll out new ICT solutions for the agriculture sector, in partnership with mobile network providers, in the years ahead.



36,000
calls per month



Ejigayehu Bekele and daughter Mebrat
Gullilat, Garmama Village, Oromia,
Ethiopia.

Strides in Development

Impressive progress was made globally to end extreme hunger and poverty in the 15 years of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which ended in late 2015.

However, although the MDGs are credited with lifting the incomes of 700 million people in poor regions above the 'extreme poverty' threshold of \$1.25 a day, hundreds of millions remain mired in poverty, both in fragile states and in poverty pockets within states which have experienced significant economic growth in recent years.

Hundreds of millions remain mired in poverty, both in fragile states and in poverty pockets.

Just a two-hour drive south of the bustling Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, is one such poverty pocket, Boset, where nearly all households are subsistence farmers, and up to 85% of people rely on food aid for at least a part of the year.

Getachew Miko, Dirma village,
Oromia, Ethiopia.





The contrasts between Addis Ababa and Boset could not be starker. One is a burgeoning regional metropolis that launched its own light-rail service in 2015; the other an impoverished region where the struggle for survival is an everyday reality.

Home to a population of over 165,000 people, Boset is characterised by arid conditions and poor soils. Climate change is blamed locally for increasingly erratic rainfall patterns. Agriculture is anything but dependable.

It is here that Self Help Africa began working with 6,000 smallholder farming families two years ago. Providing farm training and sharing knowledge about how to farm effectively in challenging climate conditions provided the bedrock for a programme of agricultural support activities that are having a transformational effect within a short time.

Farming families are improving their productivity by using drought-tolerant crop varieties, by inter-cropping nitrogen-fixing beans with cereal crops, and by using innovative measures such as the production and promotion of a locally devised 'land ripper' that tills the land in a way that retains moisture in the soil.

Boset experienced its worst drought in half a century in 2015, with high rates of crop failure across the region. Despite this however, farmers working with Self Help Africa reported good yields of improved varieties of drought tolerant haricot bean, teff (cereal), peanut and mung bean, the latter being newly introduced to the area. Maize yields increased on average by almost 32%, from 3115 kg per hectare to 4100 kg/ha, and haricot beans by 69% from 1331kg per hectare to 2250 kg/ha.

Shewaye Tegegne, a 48-year-old widow and mother of six from Buta Donkore village, said she recently produced 800 kilos of improved-variety teff on her land and had sold it for more than 11,000 Ethiopian birr (€400). "I used some of this money to buy a calf that I am now rearing," she said.

Much has been written in recent years about the rising economies and new middle classes across sub-Saharan Africa. It's refreshing to see news emerging from the continent that is built on a narrative of enterprise, growth and progress.

But there remain many challenges to growth across Africa, especially in areas of extreme fragility, where communities have limited access to support, to markets and to opportunity. While we celebrate the success of Africa Rising, we cannot forget the many millions who remain locked in extreme poverty.

“Good things come to those who are prepared to work hard for them.”

Lillian Makukula

Lillian is an enterprising grandmother whose success as a poultry producer in Manjakazi village in Eastern Zambia is an inspiration to others.





Sanqogou Lalle, Tonte Village, Togo.

For the women of Tonte village in the savannahs of Northern Togo, rice has become an important part of life.

Rice first became commonplace in the region when the UN distributed emergency rice rations during a series of food crises in the early years of the new millennium. Since then the grain has become as popular as maize and millet to the local diet. And it has become much more than that for the people of Tonte.

Today, thanks to support from Self Help Africa, 100 farming households earn a living from growing, processing, marketing and trading rice across the region. 91 of the farmers involved in the enterprise are women.

Sana Mamata

Sana never had an education, but she is proud that she can now support her own kids through school, and particularly proud to be able to sponsor her eldest son's journey to university.

A farmer who grows rice, millet and sorghum on a six-acre farm in central Burkina Faso, Sana says the money she earns from selling rice and from vegetables she grows on an irrigated communal plot has allowed her to fund her children's education.





Yeshareg Abene

Yeshareg is the accountant for the Kenenisa Rural Savings and Credit Cooperative.

Self Help Africa has been supporting RuSACCOs like Yeshareg's in Ethiopia for ten years and in that time their membership has swelled to 50,000 members.



Flora Nyirangaba,
Kamwenge District,
Uganda.

Self Help Africa (UK) (A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st December 2015

		2015 Restricted Funds	2015 Unrestricted Funds	2015 Total	2014 Restricted Funds	2014 Unrestricted Funds	2014 Total
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	1,778,282	1,273,562	3,051,844	1,595,460	914,613	2,510,073
Other trading activities	4	68,731	93,798	162,530	53,867	85,737	139,604
Other Income							
Income from investments	5	-	1,471	1,471	-	1,507	1,507
							183,735
Total		1,847,014	1,368,831	3,215,845	1,649,327	1,001,857	2,651,184
EXPENDITURE ON							
Raising funds		-	119,752	119,752	-	170,688	170,688
Charitable activities	6	1,918,170	1,172,966	3,091,136	1,606,613	1,018,561	2,625,174
Total	8	1,918,170	1,292,718	3,210,888	1,606,613	1,189,249	2,795,862
Net (expenditure) / income	9	(71,176)	76,113	4,957	74,714	(187,392)	(144,678)
Gains on revaluations of investment assets		-	141	141	-	1,538	1,538
Net movement in funds for the year		(71,156)	76,274	5,098	42,714	(185,854)	(143,140)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Funds at beginning of reporting period		276,012	276,097	552,109	233,298	461,951	695,249
Funds at the end of reporting period		204,856	352,351	557,207	276,012	276,097	552,109

There are no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net expenditure for the financial year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

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