

SNAPSHOTS

from the
FIELD



Sunny Byaruhanga, Buswékera, 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 smallholder 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 to grow different types of crops, to train in climate-smart techniques that help to produce more robust and predictable yields, and to ensure 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, Tekele 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.

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.

But Consolata got the chance to turn things around thanks to Self Help Africa's AgriFi Challenge Fund, which enabled her and other female growers to increase their yields and earn more from the cotton that they 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 it's 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 can 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.

STRONGER TOGETHER

United
Purpose



Self Help
Africa

Self Help Africa are delighted to be joining forces with Cardiff-based United Purpose to become a bigger, stronger, and more impactful organisation.

Every year, Self Help Africa and United Purpose collectively assist over six million people, harnessing the power of agriculture to eradicate poverty and hunger for communities across three continents.

Across Lower Income Countries, a combination of population growth and climate change threaten the economic gains that have been made over the last three decades. Africa has the world's fastest growing population in the 21st Century, predicted to reach 2.5 billion by 2050.

How this complex development challenge is addressed, may well set the agenda for global peace and stability in this century.



Patricia, Eco-stove producer, Malawi,
Photo courtesy of United Purpose

By pooling resources and working together, we will write a new chapter in our history, and bring experience, knowledge and innovation to combatting the challenges of global poverty, in a post-pandemic world.

Together we can support more people, in more countries, to work their way out of poverty.

For further information, visit selfhelp.africa/merger

Merging our two operations will allow us to:

- ✓ **INCREASE IMPACT**
Together, we will deliver greater impact and help more people to end hunger and poverty in their lives.
- ✓ **REDUCE COSTS**
By combining key support services and technical expertise we can save significantly in overheads and in annual running costs.
- ✓ **STRENGTHEN OUR TEAM**
By merging the complementary skills and knowledge of two professional teams, we can contribute much more to the global fight against poverty.
- ✓ **EXPERIENCE**
Together, we bring unparalleled experience and a specific focus and expertise in agricultural and agri-enterprise development, to improve the lives of the world's poorest people.

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, in 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 yogurt, the campaign captured the public imagination, and thousands of people donated.



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
monica.morison@selfhelpafrica.org
for more information.

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 and the UK.

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

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, we distributed information leaflets, soap, jerry cans and other vital equipment.



Mary Achieng Orianga,
Homa Bay, Kenya

FUNDRAISING IN LOCKDOWN

In the UK, the constraints of lockdown saw us engage with digital fundraising in a way that was new to us all. From virtual events and challenges through to webinars, online raffles and appeals - you've been with us every step of the way. Thank you for embracing this change and being part of our online community. We hope to meet in-person again soon.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Making your will is a deeply personal matter. We fully understand that taking care of family and loved ones must always come first, but in choosing to remember Self Help Africa with a gift in your will, you can make a very real and lasting impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable.

If you are considering making or amending your Will you might also consider leaving a legacy gift to Self Help Africa - the smallest gift can make an impact for generations to come.



Gastone Ndhasasiwa
Asasira Prime, Ibanda
District, Uganda

We promise we will use your gift as carefully and as cost effectively as possible, to bring maximum impact to those whom we work with in Africa.

To find out more contact Monica:
monica.morison@selfhelpafrica.org

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.

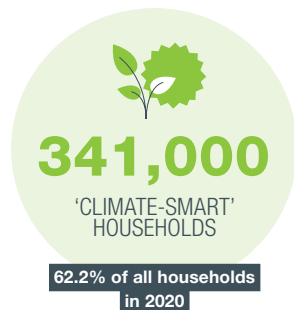
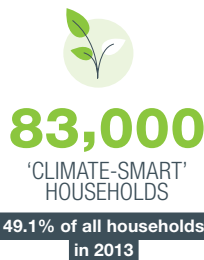
GENDER BALANCE

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%.



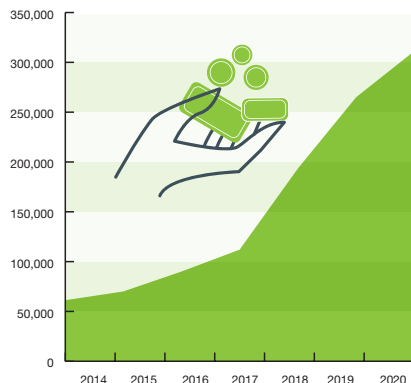
CLIMATE SMART FARMING

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.



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), and SACCOs (savings and credit cooperatives) established in their communities.





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FARMING FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE