



Hope Planted Grows

After losing her husband, Maria became the sole provider for her 7 children. They received little help from relatives, and even if she could access banking services, Maria was too poor to get a loan to improve her home business or her farm. The family was in a crisis.

"I had to take my eldest son out of school to help with the farm work. I needed his help to survive. We needed the income he brought in to be able to send the other children to school. Since there was no place to borrow money, we gathered firewood to burn to make charcoal to sell. That way, we could buy food to make something to eat."

When World Renew's partner began working in her village in northern Sierra Leone, Maria was selected by her community to participate with 30 other neighbours in an agriculture and micro-loan program. As part of the project, a community seed bank was established to provide the participants with improved rice seed and training in sustainable farming methods.

Maria and the other group members were also able to access small loans and save their extra income in a group savings account. "I'm sure the village knew I needed it more than everyone else," Maria smiled. She used the new opportunity to start baking bread to sell, breeding ducks and selling eggs, and to increase her charcoal production.

"Without help from World Renew, our family would still be hungry. Now all my children can continue their education again. I really thank God for World Renew."



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Thank You!

