



14 John Tucker Street, Makeni

## **BEGINNING WITH A VISION**

*Empowering poor people to achieve their full economic potentials; just a stitch in time*



### **Introduction**

Since the commencement of our operations, all efforts and resources have been directed towards reaching the very poor people and actualizing the plan and objectives that were conceived by the founders of EduNations Microfinance. As we roll into the third month of our operations, strengthening ties with our customers and accentuating our contribution towards poverty alleviation remain our core objectives. As we leap ahead, we have reviewed our past, assessed our present and vision our future through a market review and have herein gathered the following testimonies.

Mabinty Conteh who sells rice and sauce, is a single parent with three children at Congo Town, Makeni. She knows how to cook very well more than many other people within her area but was selling in a dilapidated structure, which prevented many people from buying her food. Through the EduNations



David Sesav the Loan Officer at Mabinty's shop

Microfinance loan, she has given her cookery shop a facelift and that has attracted more customers to her business place. She is so grateful for the loan, which she said she could comfortably repay from the net income from her business and be able to educate her three children.



Mabinty Sesay had a well-stocked shop with provisions. Her business came to a standstill during the Ebola when her house was quarantined for 42 days. Most of the items were left to spoil because majority of her customers could no longer buy from her for the fear of the virus.

Today, Mabinty Sesay is a happy woman as her business is making steady progress through the loan that was given to her to expand her business. She thanks EduNations Microfinance for the loan that was given

to her and promises that she will work to actualize her business potentials that was scraped by the Ebola scourge.

Kadiatu Jalloh, a single parent mother with a school going pupil (daughter), had a well-stocked shop but had to part away with almost all her finances trying to save her husband's life during his illness. She spent the bulk of the money at the hospital but could not save him. She was among the first people that



EduNations Microfinance given a Business Growth Loan. During one of our follow-up visits, she could not hide her gratitude to us for the loan. She stated that the Lebanese man who used to supply her with bags of rice had sometimes refused to supply her most especially

when there is a competition in the market for profit which they are both fighting for. But with such an amount she can now get additional twenty bags of different types of rice and do business within two to three days and get additional bags. She stated that with the loan her profit margin has increased, 'I will definitely be able her to pay back the loan' she added.

### **TEACHERS LOAN**

The greater testimony is the transformation of the lives of forty Teachers who have taken loans to pursue higher courses in the teaching field. Due to the incredible impediments to education caused by lack of funding, most Sierra Leoneans start their college education at the lowest level to gain an employment where they will be doing their distance courses whilst working. However, this plan of working and learning is also very challenging as most teachers need to work for years before having to save enough to start their higher courses. With EduNations Microfinance this quasi contentious issue had melted down to working, studying and paying back. This act of saving-up had in a short time helped forty teachers with a salary loan to be continuing their distance education whilst working.

At the close of our business in August, we can clearly see that we do not have enough capital to empower all the customers whom the Loan Officer and Manager had reviewed and proved worthy to take a loan. We request prayers that God will lead people to be involved into our work through providing funding for us to increase the loan portfolio.

If you would like to learn more about EduNations Microfinance and ways you may participate or contribute, please feel free to contact Jeff Gingrich ([jeff@edunations.org](mailto:jeff@edunations.org)).