

The Power of Storytelling: Exploring the Transformative Power of Listening in Community

A storytelling event often reveals hidden insights by helping individuals take a deeper, richer look at their lives. Benefitting from a workshop offered by [StoryCenter](#), staff and members of the Episcopal Relief & Development leadership teams have learned how to effectively teach storytelling methods to communities that wish to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG). In these workshops and circles of trust, women can creatively construct their personal narratives of strength and resilience and are equipped to train others, particularly women within Savings with Education (SwE) groups. The ethical storytelling process gives voice to women and a platform to share their personal stories, enabling the project to effectively capture qualitative information and subjective experiences on VAWG in a way that honors the dignity of the individual. Storytelling also allows the growing number of women Faith Leaders to hear and give voice to the lives and experiences of other women and to tell their stories as only they can.

Savings With Education (SwE)

Our micro-finance programs emphasize involving both women and men, which can be very effective in promoting awareness and women's empowerment. When women become breadwinners, they increase their role in household decision-making, which often enhances the whole family's well-being. When men and women together contribute to their community's economic growth, mutual respect and understanding flourish. Read stories of women involved in these programs and find out more on our website [here](#).

We also support the establishment of group businesses where manufacturing or processing equipment is collectively owned and operated. This arrangement allows many people to earn income without the risk or burden of a large individual investment.

"Telling the truth is an act of love, an act of resistance, an act of courage. Its end is liberation, freedom and if possible, reconciliation. But there can be no reconciliation without truth."

— The Rev. Jacqui Lewis, *Fierce Love: A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage and Rule-Breaking Kindness That Can Heal the World*

Watch [this video](#) and hear the inspiring story of one woman's experience with our work in Guatemala.

Your support of our work enables communities to journey from poverty to prosperity by:

- Providing loans and other micro-finance opportunities that enable families to generate more income
- Working with people to learn skills and develop small businesses in a variety of fields
- Promoting cooperatives to help individuals pool their resources and maximize their purchasing power
- Assisting communities in gaining access to local markets, increasing their ability to sell products for profit
- Helping farming communities increase their crop yields so the surplus can be sold for income



Newly elected officers of a savings group in Kulaadabogo, Ghana. The group named itself "Asongtaaba," which means, "We help each other." Episcopal Relief & Development partners with ADDRO in Ghana to train volunteers to lead and organize savings groups.