

In 2008, thirty illiterate women from the same community came together voluntarily to participate in the GOAL REFLECT programme. The aim of joining the circle is to improve their family welfare, having knowledge of health, nutrition and skills of literacy and numeracy. GOAL provides them with exercise books, pencils, rubbers, rulers and an incentive to the facilitator. After having a session on Income and Expenditure, participants realized that their income is not enough. They have to come up with a project to increase their income.

(The group stays in a small village called Awal, a small town in the south Sudan which is part of a transitional area of the Sudan/ South Sudan border. They don't have a grinding mill. Women are pounding the sorghum / using stones for grinding. It takes them a long time to get the flour. By creating this project, cooking will be easy and fast, women will have at least a leisure time to participate in social activities and it is also a self-employment to the group.)

They started to contribute money on a weekly basis till it reaches 5400SSP (\$1862). When they complete one year GOAL gave them a grant of 6000SSP (\$2069), 200SSP (\$69) / individual. They pooled the money together to have one project (**grinding mill**) for the benefit of all the community in the area.

The group formed an executive committee which comprises of 5 people; chairlady, and secretary with their two assistants and treasurer to manage the project. This group met on a monthly basis to review the progress, allocation of responsibilities to the members. On a quarterly basis they met to distribute the profit as well.



The group has a common interest which they wanted to achieve. They want to come out from illiteracy culture. They continue coming to the circle to learn skills of reading and writing and health awareness. They shared the

information they obtain from the circles with women outside the circles and ensure they are applying it in their daily life.

The relationship among the women, staying together five days / week for two hours in a circle, sharing issues and learning the skills of literacy and numeracy is the core that made the experience to work.



The member plays different roles based on each ones interest and capabilities in addition to daily supervision and collection of the money. Other contributors don't take any part in decision making, just supported the process.

The women outside the group look at the participants with respect and learn from them. They are regretting not joining the circle from the beginning but they are enjoying the benefit.

I encouraged involvement, supported discussion and summarized the points being made from time to time and keep the discussion on track.

Yes, it is valuable to the welfare of the family.

Others said I have brought change in the area and reduced the level of poverty in my family

There is an old saying “group is power” When you are in a group you can perform a big task in a limited time. Without pooling the resources together, these poor women can't afford to come up with this kind of project to benefit all the community. Having people with different experiences and skills will contribute to the success of the programme. .

We can invite individuals who are struggling with their own business to visit the project area and to attend the monthly meeting. Discuss with them the advantage of working together and the disadvantage of working as an individual and encourage them to pool their resources together. In addition the group should have a good leader and the group should act as a model to the others.

If we could do more the area will be developed, no hunger, basic services will be available and the voice of the community of that area will be heard.