



# Lifting Women Out of Poverty in Liberia

**Chevron-Liberia Economic Development Initiative: Foundation for Women**

**Peace Island Village, Liberia**

**Emily Guegbeh Peal, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Women, Liberia**

Our mission is really to help eliminate poverty in Liberia through microcredit programs; and also create wealth and sustainability and prosperity for the women.

When women are economically powered, the family becomes economically powered, the nation becomes economically powered, and then the world as a whole becomes secure.

We teach them about business skill, how to manage your money, how to keep an inventory of what you have.

Our average rate of giving the women loan is about \$100 U.S. dollars. It may not sound a lot, but here most of our women have not seen \$100 U.S. dollars at one time.

The immediate effect is that the women begin to regain their dignity. If you give them a loan, you are telling them that you are capable. You can make it. We are only giving you this loan as a tool to take the best potential out of you.

**Malu Dahn, Midwife, Peace Island Village**

When I got my loan, I went to one midwifery school, and I graduated from there. That is when I started to practice. And I so love this job, because my mother was a traditional midwife.

Some weeks I deliver two in a week, some weeks three times, five times. I can see my future getting brighter and brighter and brighter.

At the end of the day, we know they will not continue to credit us. They want you to stand on your own so that you can become somebody tomorrow.