

Empowering women like Ebese  
How two sheep have transformed a family



Maternity Worldwide are enabling women like Ebese to become financially independent through micro finance

## Empowering women

One of the reasons why women die during childbirth is the delayed decision to access healthcare.



For many women, the decision to seek healthcare is not always theirs to make. This can be due to a number of reasons such as women: having a low status in some areas; not being the decision maker in the family or not having their own source of income.

Maternity Worldwide are helping to address this by running women's groups and income generation schemes. Ebese attended a women's group and received 325 Birr (£11) to buy two female sheep to breed with her ram, amazingly both sheep were already pregnant! She sold one of the sheep along with the lambs for 1610 Birr (£55). With this money she bought a donkey to help her carry goods to market in Gimbie (10km away). The other female sheep has continued to breed and produced 30 more lambs over the past 5 years which Ebese has sold.

The training and additional income has helped Ebese to:

- finish building her house
- pay for her son's school books and uniform
- lend funds to other women to set up their own small businesses
- become a role model for other women in her community.

This relatively small amount of money has transformed Ebese's life and created opportunities for her family. By facilitating Ebese to earn her own money Maternity Worldwide have enabled her to become independent and make her own financial decisions including when to access healthcare.



To find out more about our work or to make a donation please visit our website [www.maternityworldwide.org](http://www.maternityworldwide.org) call 01273 234033 email [info@maternityworldwide.org](mailto:info@maternityworldwide.org)